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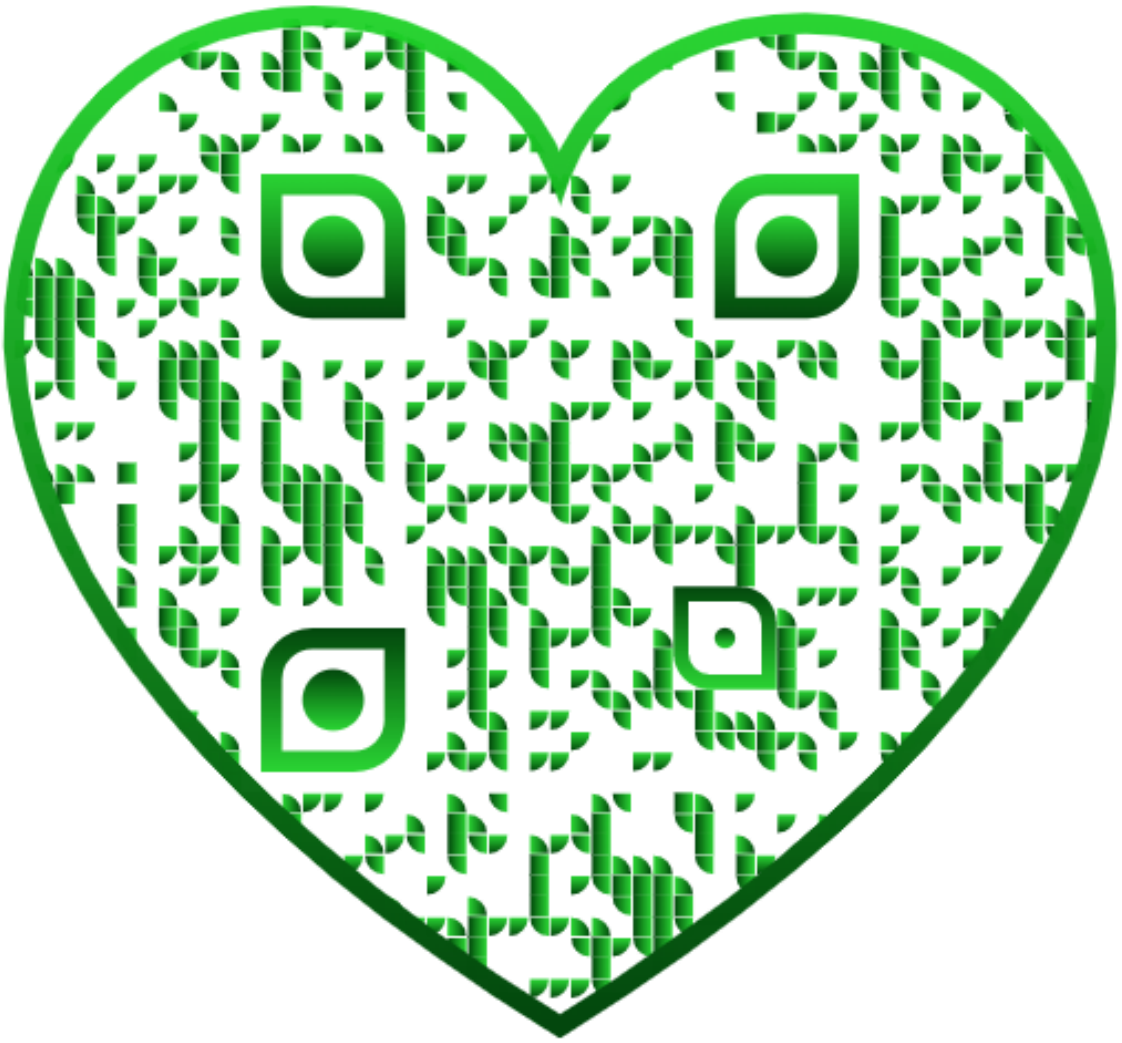
NME

American Dream

Green Day's Billie Joe on the crazy election that could change the world forever

NIGHTMARE



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NME

HELLO...

WHEN GREEN DAY FORMED in 1986, Ronald Reagan was president of the USA. A former Hollywood star, his phony good guy image and right-wing policies turned him into a hate figure for the emerging punk scene, which flourished during his reign.

In 1991, when Green Day's debut album 'Kerplunk' was released, George Bush Senior was two years into a term remembered for a massive lie when he said "read my lips: no new taxes" then brought in new taxes anyway.

In 2004, when Green Day's 'American Idiot' came out, it was slap bang in the middle of Bush's offspring George W Bush's own chaotic era. What can you say about W other than Green Day's album couldn't have been more aptly titled.

On Tuesday, America will elect its next leader, and the result is globally significant. Donald Trump is bizarrely still in the running, despite running a wildly bigoted campaign. He's dangerous, and hopefully America is smart enough to reject his hate. As ever, Green Day are here, and they're angry about the state of the country they love. In such a momentous week for the world, only one band could be on our cover. Enjoy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Honeyblood p34

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If it takes the power of punk to cut through the bulls**t, then they're the rock stars we need right now

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COVER PHOTO: MATT SALACUSE

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THE WEEKND
STARBOY
LEGEND OF THE FALL
2017 WORLD TOUR PHASE ONE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
BRYSON TILLER
LIL UZI VERT

TURN TO PAGE 19 FOR FULL TOUR DETAILS

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Spoilers are coming

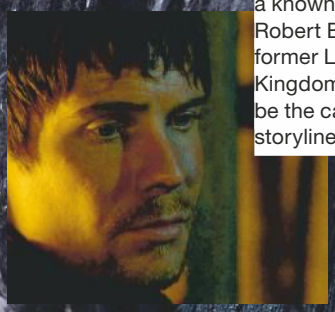
New Twitter pics from the set of *Game Of Thrones* offer tantalising clues about how the show's seventh season will play out. Possibly

JON SNOW

There are pics of Jon Snow (played by Kit Harrington) scrapping with former ally Theon Greyjoy (Alfie Allen). This follows the storyline where Theon betrayed the Starks before attempting to redeem his actions by helping Sansa (Arya and Bran's older sister) escape. Snow has also been snapped in Westeros with Daenerys (above).

GENDRY

The actor Joe Dempsie – who plays Gendry – was also on set. He was last seen at the end of season three, after he sailed away to avoid being sacrificed by Melisandre. Allegedly he'll make his return where he left off – Dragonstone. Gendry is a known blood relative of Robert Baratheon, the former Lord of the Seven Kingdoms. His return could be the catalyst for some big storylines in the series.



THE STARKS

The pics show Maisie Williams (who plays Arya Stark) and Isaac Hempstead Wright (Bran Stark) getting ready on-set together. Maisie appears to be wearing 'northern' clothing – sparking rumours of a Stark reunion.

THE ENTIRE SEASON 7 PLOT

After sharing accurate spoilers for season six, Free Folk on Reddit has put extensive season seven info online. The website Heat Street has turned it all into an episode-by-episode breakdown of what's going to happen. Nathalie Emmanuel, who plays Missandei in *GoT*, has since taken to Twitter to slam those who want to "ruin season 7 for everyone". She's got a point. So let's stop now.

Season seven of *Game Of Thrones* premieres in late 2017

WORDS: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: © HOME BOX OFFICE, REX FEATURES, TUMBLR, LANDMARK

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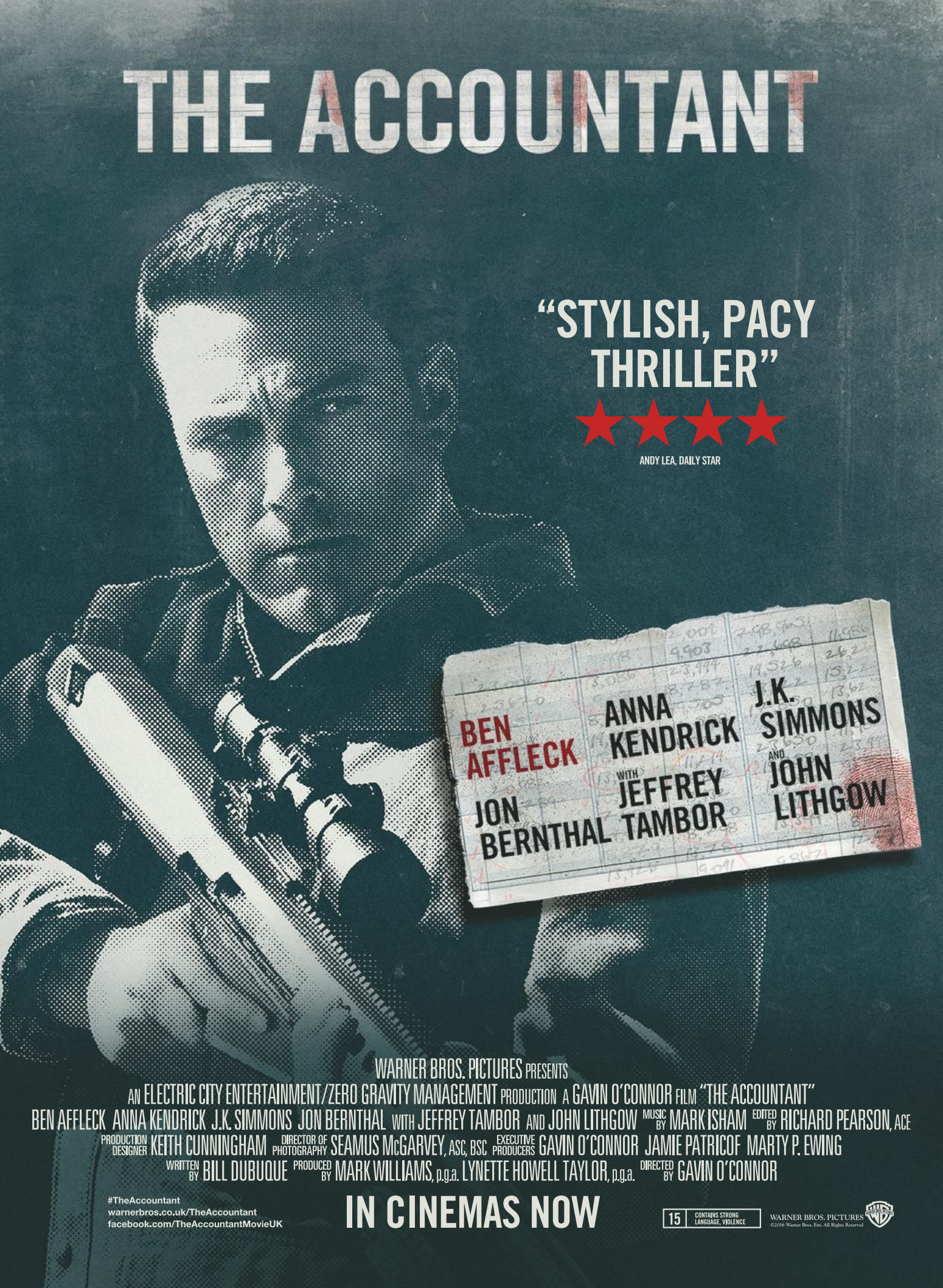

"STYLISH, PACY THRILLER"

★★★★

ANDY LEA, DAILY STAR

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ANNA KENDRICK
J.K. SIMMONS
JON BERNTHAL
WITH JEFFREY TAMBOR
AND JOHN LITHGOW

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IN CINEMAS NOW

15 CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE

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6 things that'll blow your mind on the You Me At Six tour

By singer Josh Franceschi

BACK WITH A MOODY FIFTH album 'Night People' and a "stadiums or bust" attitude, Surrey rock sensations You Me At Six have announced an April 2017 UK tour, culminating at Alexandra Palace. It'll be a shirt-flinging, tout-defying riot.

1 THERE'LL BE FLYING SCREENS
"Screens that come out from different angles. Screens that can move up in the air and across the stage.. You can take it to a whole new level if you spend the money."

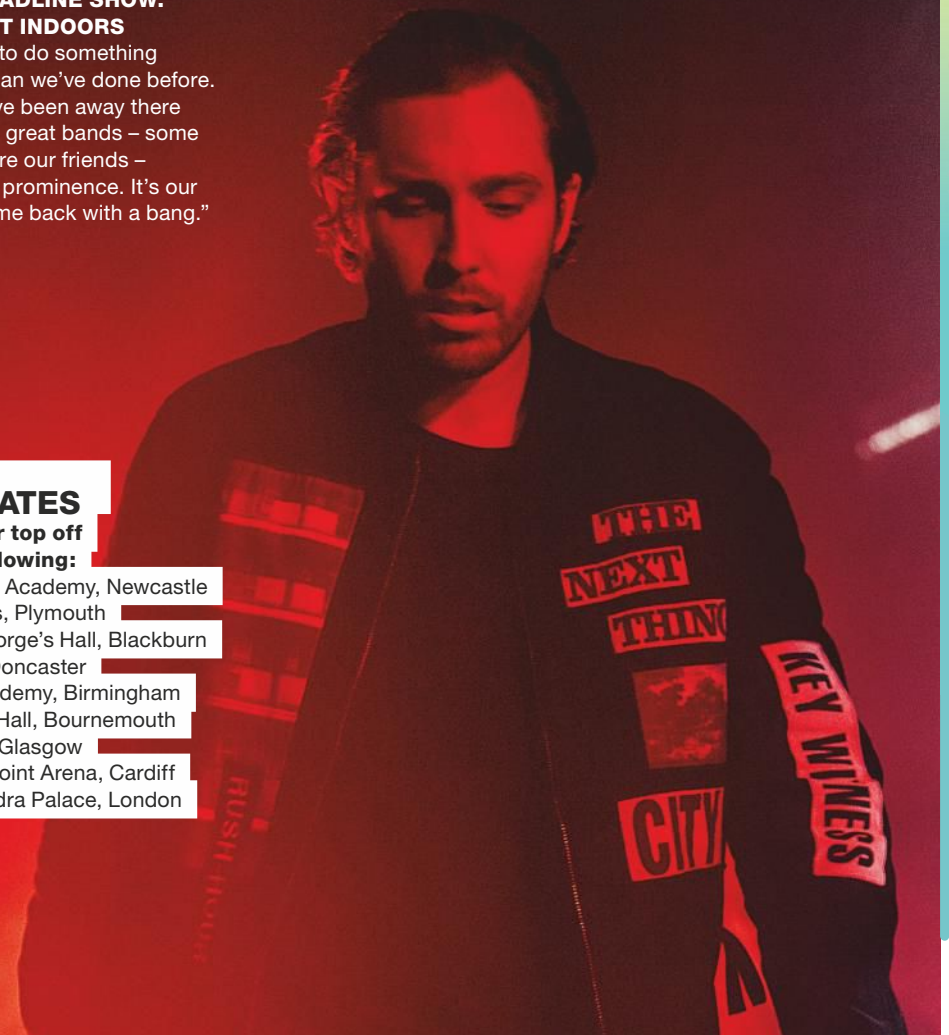
2 IT'LL BE A FESTIVAL HEADLINE SHOW. BUT INDOORS
"We want to do something grander than we've done before. While we've been away there have been great bands – some of which are our friends – coming to prominence. It's our turn to come back with a bang."

3 THERE'LL BE SWAGGER
"There's a new vibe, onstage. I don't envision us doing the whole jumping up and down on the spot in unison thing that we've done before. There's a new, dare I say it, swagger. A moodier thing going on."

4 YOU'LL GO TOPLESS
"We did the song 'Reckless' at Reading & Leeds in 2012 and I asked the whole audience to take their shirts off and fling them around their heads – 40,000 people all jumping up and down flinging their shirts above their heads. It's become a cult thing. Without fail, anywhere in the world, people do it."

5 DRAKE MIGHT GUEST (POSSIBLY)
"He's on speed dial."

6 IT'LL BE THE LAST CHANCE TO SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES
"It's stadiums or bust for us in the next two or three years. There's a crop of young rock bands who've been bubbling for a while who've got to start turning into festival headliners or outdoor headliners. Every day we've been getting up going, 'We're gonna headline Milton Keynes Bowl' or 'We're gonna headline the Emirates'. Someone's got to do it."



THE DATES

Take your top off at the following:

April 3 O2 Academy, Newcastle
5 Pavilions, Plymouth
6 King George's Hall, Blackburn
7 Dome, Doncaster
10 O2 Academy, Birmingham
11 Solent Hall, Bournemouth
13 SECC, Glasgow
14 Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff
15 Alexandra Palace, London

INTERVIEW: MARK BEAUMONT. PHOTOS: JON STONE, REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES, EMMANUEL COLE

GOOD WEEK

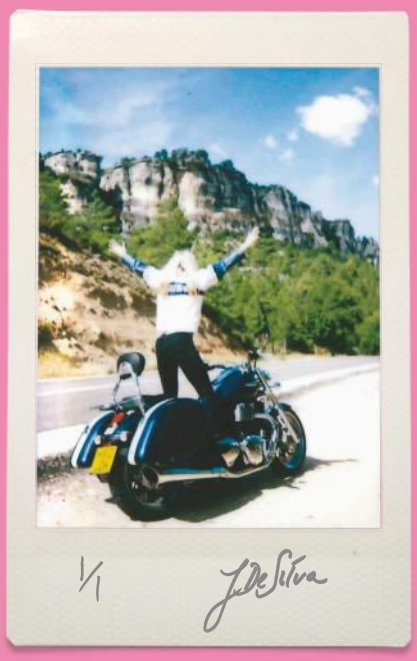
KATY PERRY
Won Halloween with her Hillary Clinton costume. Even Clinton loved it: "Wow, that is great!" she gushed.

NOVELIST
The Lewisham grime MC has launched his own label. Hasn't got a name yet. Gonna be sick.

MARK RONSON AND BRUNO MARS
'80s band Collage are suing them for "copied" bits of their hit tune 'Uptown Funk'.

LILY ALLEN
Tried to get a black cab only to be told by the twat driver, "Find an immigrant to drive you, you stupid tart."

BAD WEEK



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Negan and his victims before the slaughter in the first episode of the new series

PHOTO: FOX

SPOILERS ALERT!

Graphic content

Fans of *The Walking Dead* comics reckon we'll see these plot twists on screen in season seven

THE FIRST EPISODE OF *The Walking Dead* season seven was the show's goriest yet, when Glenn and Abraham met a sticky end via a barbed-wired baseball bat owned by new villain Negan. The second intro'd us to The Kingdom, a region run by a chill guy called Ezekiel – who has a pet tiger. After this opening salvo, fans are focusing on how the storyline in the show is closer to the comics than it's been for a while. What could that mean for the rest of the season?

NEGAN WILL BEFRIEND CARL

AS SEEN IN: Volume 19 (issues 109-114)

IN THE COMICS: In the season seven opener, Negan tells Rick to cut off Carl's arm or everyone else gets killed. Carl urges Rick to do it, which appears to impress Negan so much he stops Rick from going through with it. Later in the comics, Carl is taken hostage and 'mentored' by Negan. It looks likely we could see this happen in series seven.

JESUS WILL SAVE THE DAY

AS SEEN IN: Volumes 18-19 (issues 103-114)

IN THE COMICS: Two new communities have emerged: The Hilltop and The Kingdom. Alongside Rick Grimes' group – based in the Alexandria Safe-Zone – they will work together in the fight against Negan's Saviors. Paul 'Jesus' Rovia will act as the liaison between them, using infiltration skills and martial arts know-how to gather intel on Negan.

MAGGIE WILL BECOME A LEADER

AS SEEN IN: Volume 20 (issues 115-120)

IN THE COMICS: Maggie's pregnancy is what brings her to The Hilltop community, and later on she becomes its leader. Expect her to be full of vengeance for dead husband Glenn. She'll also bear a grudge against Rick for not preventing his death – but they'll become allies again in the fight against The Saviors.

NME PROMOTION

Skepta shows a mentee the ropes

Join the revolution

Four reasons to go to the Levi's® Music Project x Skepta

1 It's all about access to music…
…including a pop-up home studio so you can mirror the experiences of the participants involved in Levi's® Music Project, a community music space created with Skepta.

2 It's inspired by the V&A exhibition You Say Want A Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970…
…which celebrates the counter culture revolution of the '60s, and how it influenced the modern day.

3 It's part of The Revolutions Weekender: A Festival of Peace, Love and Music at the V&A…
…events on Nov 4-6 inspired by the mayhem of the late 1960s.

4 Skepta wants to inspire the next generation…
…"I want to show that success is not something you search for externally, it is from within," he says. "Ideas can become reality with hard work."

WHEN: Nov 5, 11am-5pm
WHERE: The Raphael Gallery at the V&A, London

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“People know we’re not bulls**tters”

As the Courteeners prepare to take new album ‘Mapping The Rendezvous’ out on the road, Liam Fray talks humility, humanity, and why people love them so much

You’re shifting a lot of albums and about to tour huge venues across the UK. Do you still get angry when people claim you’re only big in the north?
“If you’re in a band, you’re there to be shot at, it doesn’t matter what sort of music you do. I don’t think it’s necessarily right but reviewers and critics – that’s their job. I don’t mind. But when people start having a go at a band’s fanbase that’s not okay. That’s really, really uncool, whether it’s Catfish And The Bottlemen fans or our fans or whoever. You can feel this sneery classist undertone. These people think, ‘Oh, you’re only big up north and they’re f**king monkeys who don’t understand anything.’ Give me a break. That angers me. It’s just absurd.”

Your fans are really dedicated. Why do you think that is?
“There’s a humility and self-deprecation that people like in our songs. They’re very human. We take the songs seriously in the studio, but the actual lyrics are quite a lighthearted take on romance and failure. I’d like to write global pop songs that sell millions, but I haven’t got it in me. Maybe people know we’re not bullsh**ters.”

Speaking of dedicated fans, have you got anything planned for the couple who bought 67 tickets to your Old Trafford gig next year for their wedding reception party?
“We’re not sure but we’re definitely gonna do something special, something private for them. We’re not going to draw attention to them in a middle of a cricket ground – that might not be ideal at 8pm on a Bank Holiday weekend. I’m not sure if they’d appreciate 50,000 people staring at them – maybe they would, I don’t know. But we will do something. It’s a great story.”

You’ve got great support acts too – including Blossoms...
“They’re a real grassroots northern band – no f**king leg-ups from anybody or anything like that. They’ve grafted their balls off and toured extensively. Great pop songs, good lads, what’s not to love about it? It’s a proper old-school story – four lads meet at college and start a band. That’s what we want in this country, it should be celebrated. It gives me faith a little bit as well. None of their dads are loaded and gave them a million quid to set up a studio. They’re normal lads who wrote songs in their bedrooms like we did. F**king great, they should be celebrated. It doesn’t matter about anything else – you need the songs.”

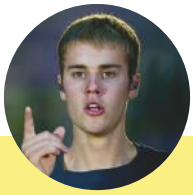
WORDS: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: TOM OXLEY, REX FEATURES

The Courteeners (l-r): Michael Campbell, Liam Fray, Daniel Moores

The Courteeners’ tour kicks off on November 10 at Victoria Hall in Stoke. For more info and tickets, hit up courteeners.com

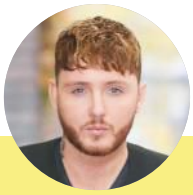
Last W33K IN NUMBERS

200m
Vine users sad to see the six-second video clip app axed. We’ll always have Marnie the Dog.



4
Words from Bieber that riled a city. “Manchester can’t handle me,” he said before storming off stage.

100
Students who’ll attend a Hogwarts-style wizarding school at the Château de Jolibert in May next year.

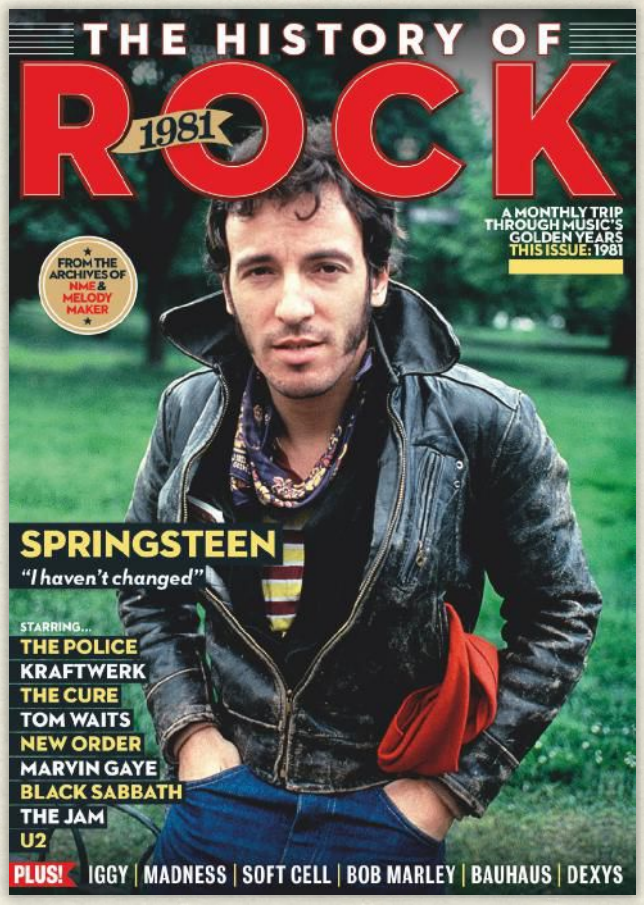


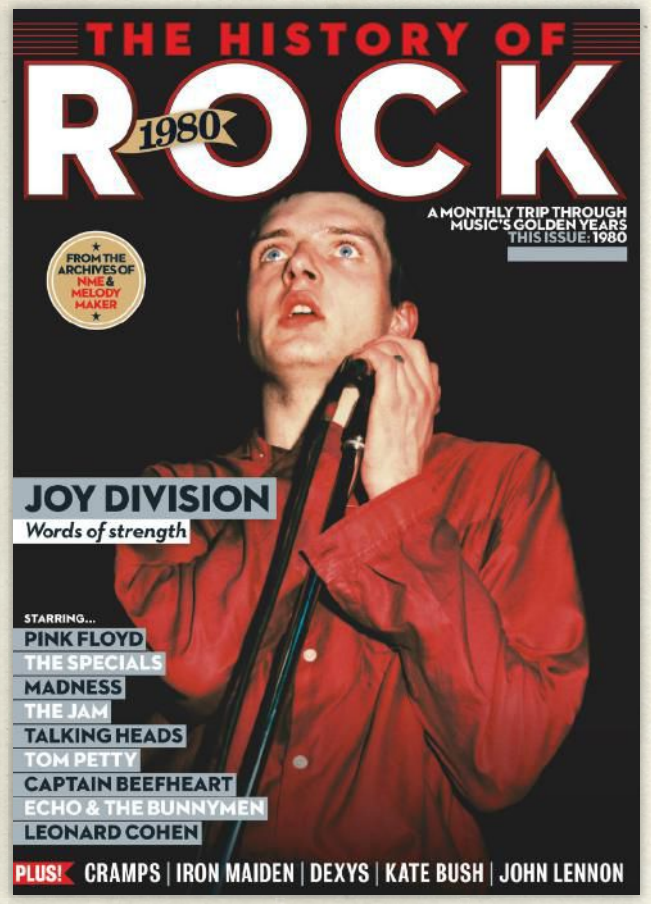
15
Number of pre-rolled joints James Arthur would take to bed with him at a bad time in his life.

THE HISTORY OF ROCK

From the makers of *Uncut*, a monthly magazine celebrating 50 years of the music that changed the world.

Month by month, it will build up into an unprecedentedly detailed chronicle of the music and musicians we love.





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BOXPARK

Party in the park

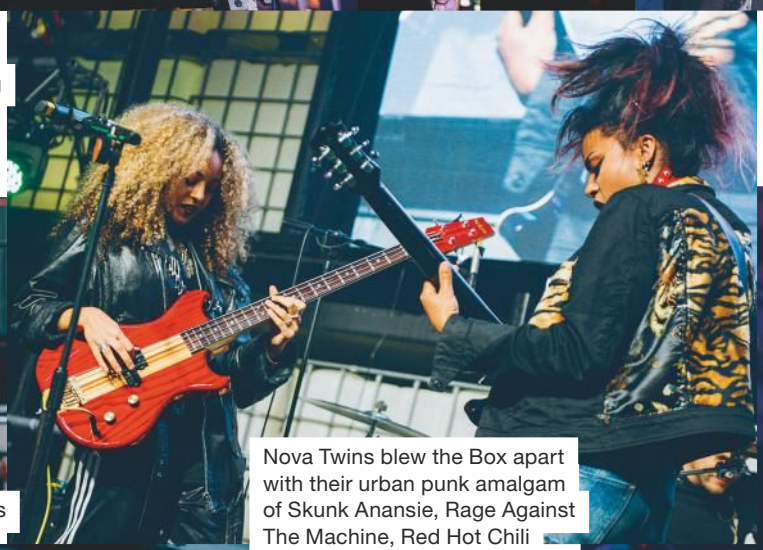
Last week, *NME* hosted a free launch party at Boxpark Croydon, a cool new food, drink and event space that's open now. Here's how the day panned out...

Headliner Jay Prince brought sensitive, summery vibes to chilly Croydon, pouring his soul over slick R'n'B on 'Homecoming/Love Is' and his breakout low-riding rap track 'Polaroids'.

Alfa Mist did some serious seduction work with his jazzy lounge pieces. One track was even called 'Brian' – from the sounds of it, the most chilled Brian ever to walk the earth.

Croydon threw itself into the spirit of the day, reloading its finger pistols with wild abandon and starting gymnastic dance circles between bands.

The day opened with Tailr.Made.Lvn's Jamell wandering the crowd, luring people forward with psych ragga raps that suggested they put something special in the Lebanese tapas.



Nova Twins blew the Box apart with their urban punk amalgam of Skunk Anansie, Rage Against The Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kelis in full *"I hate you so much right now"* mode.

A2 weaved some skunk dub witchcraft, pacing the stage muttering, *"Please don't fall asleep, you might wake up in my dreams"*, like a rather more romantic Freddy Krueger.

Between bands, the punters dug into the range of chic shipping container-sized eateries – we recommend the special Halloween spider donuts.

Liveliest of all was Barney Artist, whose rousing set took in hop-hip odes to the mean streets of, um, Forest Gate, and a lesson in the s**t-there's-a-mouse dance.

WORDS: MARK BEAUMONT.
PHOTOS: JORDAN CURTIS HUGHES

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ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

It's time for President Kanye West

THE PEOPLE OF the United States of America have a pretty big decision to make in the coming days. It's out with the Kendrick Lamar-loving, mic-dropping, wise-cracking Barack Obama and time for them to vote in someone new as President of the most populous county in the western world – a job *almost* as important as presenting the next series of *The Great British Bake Off.*

There are two options, one of which isn't really an option at all because it's the bloated sack of insanity that is Donald Trump – a pouting, p***y-grabbing proposition of a man whose flagrant racism, sexism and downright awfulness has dogged his unfathomably successful campaign so far.

What started off as a joke has become all too crushingly real. Fingers crossed that this ghastly blip upon history will be vanquished come November 8 and sent back to the land of trashy television. Polls are currently predicting a win for the rather more preferable Hillary Clinton, but we all know what happened with Brexit, so you can never be too certain.

However, just to make things that little bit more exciting, we suggest an entirely new independent candidate, someone who's already expressed an interest in running for office, albeit in the year 2020. Now I'm not entirely sure how US politics works (although I have seen the first four seasons of *The West Wing*, so I think I've got a pretty decent grasp on things), but surely there's scope to jet in the mighty Kanye West.

"Kim would bring serious sass to the role of First Lady"

He's already got a massive public profile, is able to hold the attention of a room (or festival field) and isn't afraid to speak his mind on everything from the importance of Black Lives Matter and Occupy Wall Street to his love of mid-century modern design and perhaps the most important fashion item of recent years: leather jogging bottoms.

A few months ago West spoke to Radio 1's Annie Mac about his political intentions and in a couple of seconds showed he's capable of more compassion than Donald Trump has expressed in the entirety of his campaign to date.

"We are numb, we're numb to 500 kids getting killed in Chicago a year. We're numb to the fact that it was seven police shootings in the beginning of July," said West. "We're numb to places on the Earth that we don't live — like our life is okay but it's okay for other people's lives to not be okay."

President Kanye West would look after the little guy. President Kanye would make sure everything looked *immaculate*. President Kanye would release a totally banging album every year.

Also, Kim Kardashian would bring some serious sass to the role of First Lady.

Vote for Kanye – it might sound ridiculous, but it's a million times more sensible than putting Trump in charge.

@leoniemaycooper

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Spin me right round

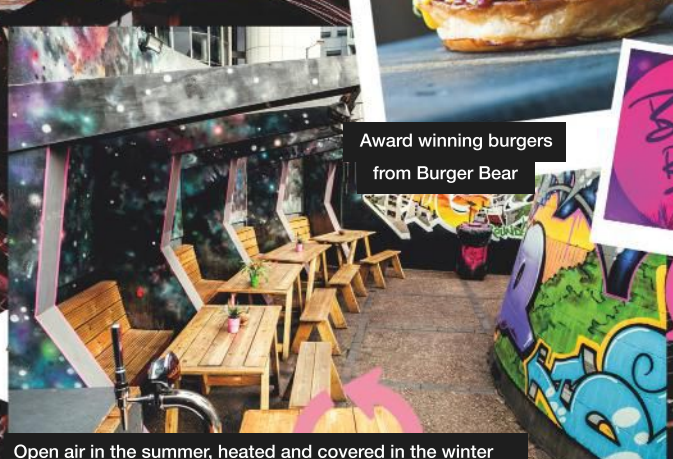
There's a party happening right now, at a venue hidden inside a roundabout in the city, tucked away from the bright lights of neon traffic that spins around it...

The Magic Roundabout is still one of the capital's craziest hidden gems and one of its best kept secrets. Its charm lies in a year-round festival atmosphere, steady stream of the party scene's funnest DJs and a selection of street food vendors who offer award winning munch for every palate. Including:

Burger Bear

FFS! | DIRTY VEGAN | WHITE MEN CAN'T JERK

Award winning burgers from Burger Bear



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EATS & BEATS

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ROCK OUT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH

THIS WEEK

Show us yer city

Bring Me The Horizon frontman Oli Sykes shows us round the very best refuelling stations in his hometown of Sheffield

Oli Sykes likes to wine, dine and have a good time in Sheffield

THE EX FOOD TRUCK

MAKE NO BONES

Oli says: "I'm one of the most awkward people ever when it comes to food because I'm vegan and I can't eat gluten and a bunch of other stuff. A couple of vegan places have popped up recently in Sheffield and this is the best one I've eaten at."

What to order: "Kentucky fried tofu. It's not junk food, it's good soul food with a modern twist."

@makenobonescafe

THE BURGER BAR

BURGER LOLZ

Oli says: "I'm not quite sure why it's called that, but it's a vegan burger place and they make these crazy burgers."

What to order: "These things called Freak Shakes. They're all the rage – milkshakes that have ice cream and stuff, they do vegan takes on that. They have a vegan Oreo cream shake with peanut butter and bananas. It's a crazy looking thing. I also had an Indian burger. It was a burger made of cheese, loaded with poppadoms and mango chutney, with an onion bhaji burger base."

@burgerlolz

THE POSH PUB

BUNGALOWS AND BEARS

Oli says: "It was the first bar of its kind in Sheffield. It's a good place to go and they've got good events on and stuff. I haven't been for a while actually, but it has a nice relaxed atmosphere."

What to order: "Your drink of choice."

bungalowsandbears.com

THE ITALIAN

ITALIA UNO

Oli says: "It's a regular Italian place, but they've got a really good vegan menu. Usually Italian takeout in Sheffield isn't the best, but I think they're genuine Italians who are really into making sure all the dough is perfect, authentic and fresh. It's a really good place – especially if you're a vegan."

What to order: "They do a great vegan pizza."

THE INDIAN

THE BHAJI SHOP

Oli says: "A friend of my dad's has actually got a couple of them around Sheffield. He prides himself on his bhajis and claims they're the best in Sheffield or South Yorkshire. They are good, to be fair."

What to order: "It's like tapas, so small plates. It's a cool little vibe. It's really nice and they change the menu up. But the bhajis are really good, obviously."

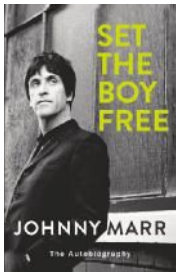
facebook.com/thebhajishop

FOR MORE EATS & BEATS, GO TO NME.COM

INTERVIEW: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: ED MILES

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



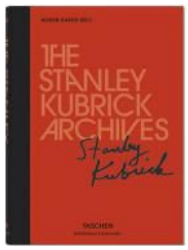
Marr-vellous reading
The Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr's memoir *Set The Boy Free* is an indie must-read.
£11 *amazon.co.uk*

Splatter style
Keep dry in this water-repellent Jackson Pollock-style art attack jacket.
£190 *napapijri.com*

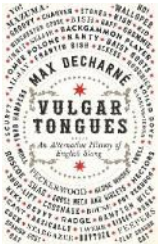
Rock chic
Debbie Harry was a fan of Levi's 505 jeans. They've now been updated as the 505C.
£95 *levi.com*

Hot stuff
Gran Luchito's Smoked Chilli Honey will add a sweet but spicy kick to dinner.
£4.99 *amazon.co.uk*

Denim delight
Eastpak has come over all blue with this special denim backpack.
£115 *selfridges.com*



Blockbuster book
Peek into the mind of a great with *The Stanley Kubrick Archives*.
£12.99 *taschen.com*



Slang tough
Max Décharné's *Vulgar Tongues* offers an alternative history of English slang.
£14.99 *serpentstail.com*

Furry friend
Lazy Oaf's Disney collab features this Cruella de Vil coat – faux fur, of course.
£160 *lazyoaf.com*

Check mate
Barbour International's biker-influenced range features this sleek checked shirt.
£89.95 *barbour.com*

Woolly wonder
New Era's New York Yankees bobble hat is the perfect blend of cosy and cool.
£20 *neweracap.co.uk*

Specs appeal
Ray-Ban has brought back its iconic 1953 Signet sunglasses design.
£143 *ray-ban.com*

Sweet deal
Ben & Jerry's One Sweet World ice cream is helping to fund community projects.
£4 *ocado.com*

Quizzy rascal
The Official Radio 6 Music Quiz Book offers rock geeks a chance to shine/show off.
£9.98 *amazon.co.uk*

Boot-iful
Timberland's classic, sturdy and stomp-worthy boots are just what winter calls for.
£300 *mrporter.com*

THE WEEKND

STARBOY

LEGEND OF THE FALL

2017 WORLD TOUR PHASE ONE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

BRYSON TILLER

LIL UZI VERT

MARCH 2017

SUN 05 MANCHESTER ARENA

TUE 07 LONDON THE O2

WED 08 LONDON THE O2

FRI 10 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO

SAT 11 NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA

MON 13 BIRMINGHAM BARCLAYCARD ARENA

TUE 14 LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA

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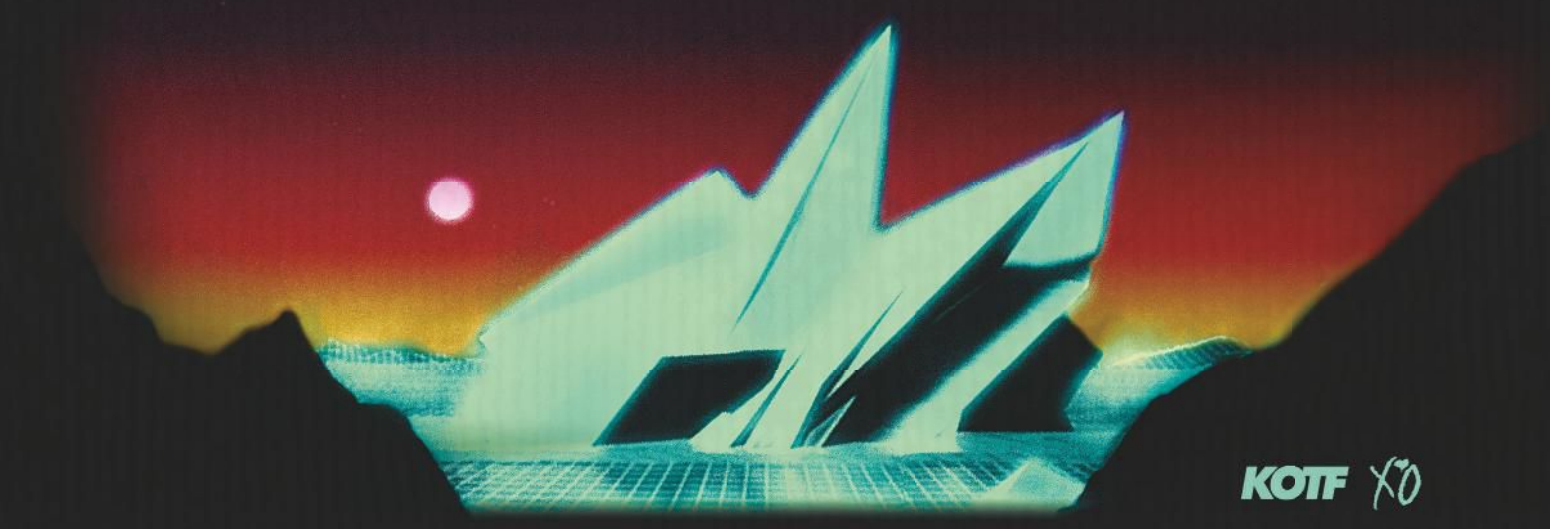

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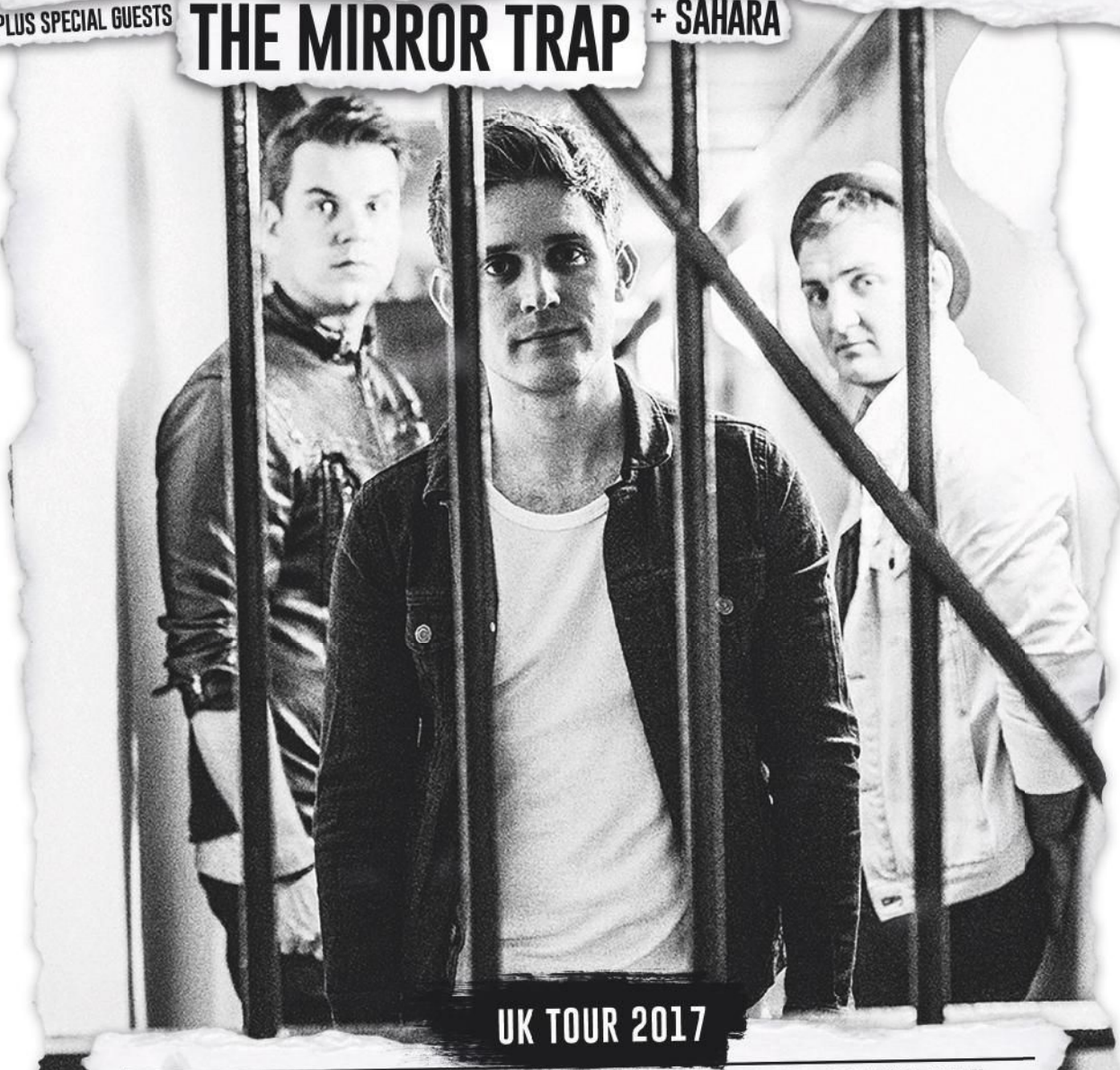
THE SANDINISTAS

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS **THE MIRROR TRAP** + SAHARA



UK TOUR 2017

14.02	CARDIFF - CLWB IFOR BACH	20.02	MANCHESTER - SOUP KITCHEN
15.02	BATH - MOLES CLUB	21.02	LIVERPOOL - ZANZIBAR
16.02	BRIGHTON - GREEN DOOR STORE	22.02	GLASGOW - NICE N SLEAZY
17.02	OXFORD - JERICHO	23.02	EDINBURGH - ELECTRIC CIRCUS
18.02	NORWICH - ARTS CENTRE	24.02	DUNDEE - BUSKERS
19.02	SHEFFIELD - LEADMILL	26/27.02	LONDON - CAMDEN ASSEMBLY

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Afropunk Fest London

KAY SOLOMAN ›

31, teacher

Listening to:
KENDRICK LAMAR
King Kunta
"He's the s**t. Everything about him is so beautiful."

Wearing: Homemade headband, top and trousers.
Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "This festival is so multicultural. If I could live in a world like Afropunk, I would do every day."

‹ AMINA MARTUCCI

26, fashion designer

Listening to:
OVERDOZ.
Killer Tofu
"They're a hip-hop band from America."

Wearing: Shadow Intimates choker, Topshop top, jacket from a charity shop, H&M jumper, Forever 21 trousers, Adidas Yeezy trainers.
Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "It's a friendly place where people can connect, share interests and enjoy music."

PHOTOS: JENN FIVE

‹ LIAM DIALLO

23, musician

Listening to:
GREGORY PORTER
Mother's Song
"He's amazing. His voice is crazy deep."

Wearing: Vintage hat, jacket and shirt, Topman sweater, trousers from Camden Market.
Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "Black and ethnic culture often gets marginalised. This explodes that out of the box."

ANGELA KWASHIE ›

28, works in advertising

Listening to:
CKTRL
Roses
"The beat and lyrics are so good. It's my summer jam."

Wearing: Zara dress, Reebok trainers.
Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "That it's in London – the heart of culture, art, fashion and music."

USA

WTF?

Hey, America, what's going on over there? Just a few days before the US presidential election, Jonny Ensall asks Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong to explain why a man who grabs women by the p*y might end up Leader of the Free World**

PHOTOS BY MATT SALACUSE

ON SEPTEMBER 28 of this year, Green Day were playing at the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville, New Jersey. Billie Joe Armstrong was belting out the lyrics to 'Holiday', a song he wrote over a decade ago to stick it to the Bush administration and protest against the war in Iraq. Politics has changed since then, but not necessarily for the better. Halfway through the song, during the breakdown, drummer Tré Cool and bassist Mike Dirnt slow their playing to a steady, rousing thump as Armstrong grabs the mic and leans out over the audience.

"You guys been watching the news lately?" he asks. "What do you think of our candidates for the presidency of the United States?" There are boos. "What do you think of New York's finest, Mr Donald Trump?" The booing gets much louder. "No racism!" Armstrong shouts. "No racism in this f**king room right now! We are coming together to call bulls**t on all the f**king politicians!"

The crowd loses it. They holler their support. They are united in their animosity towards Trump and fed up with the rise in misogyny, xenophobia and outright racism in the US. Music has brought them together, Republicans and Democrats alike, to ask the same question: what the f**k happened to the American Dream?

In the UK we can sympathise, even if we don't quite understand. The result of the EU referendum exposed some deep rifts in this country, as well as bigotry that most of us hoped was long behind us. But at least we're not facing up to the possibility of being ruled by a serially bankrupt, pathologically narcissistic demagogue with a face like a two-week-old satsuma.

If it takes the raw power of punk rock to cut through the bulls**t and make sense of all this, then the rock star we need right now is Billie Joe Armstrong. Green Day released 'Revolution Radio', their 12th studio album, in October. Like all of the band's best records, the playing's tight and the feeling's angry. It's the sound of a downtrodden American underclass raising a collective middle finger to anyone who thinks that ruling a country is just about making money and winning wars. With the polls narrowing as we race towards the election of a new Leader of the Free World on November 8, can he explain, please, what the hell is going on?

"Ha!" he laughs. "Well, I'll do my best, but I'm trying to figure out the whole damn thing myself."

We're talking on the phone. Or rather, Armstrong is in full flow and I'm listening as the incredulity pours out of him. "I'm just confused. I have anxiety about the whole thing," he says. "You wake up every morning and think, what now? What stupid thing's going to be said? What new email hack are you going to read about **(1)**? What racist comment? A lot of my songs come from… not really anger, but anxiety. And feeling lost in the whole game."

I ask him for the story behind 'Revolution Radio', arguably the most political of all Green Day's albums – more so, even, than 2004's Bush-bashing rock opera 'American Idiot'. "A couple of years ago, in the spring of 2014, I wrote the song 'Bang Bang'," he explains. "I wrote it coming from the viewpoint of a mass shooter [after what] happened in Santa Barbara **(2)**. This young man was clearly deranged and had a Facebook manifesto about how 'no girls will f**k me so I'm going to kill everybody'. The song just came out really powerfully… I thought, 'Wow, this feels like Green Day.'"

The lyrics to 'Bang Bang' include the line "*I wanna be a celebrity martyr*". That word, 'martyr', we tend to associate more with suicide bombers in the Middle East than with American gun nuts. Did that occur to him when he wrote the song? "I think human nature is something we all live with," Armstrong responds, thoughtfully. "I tried to find the ties between what we call terrorism, whether it's ISIS or whatever, and the militia mentality that Americans have and their entitlement to arms **(3)**. For me, I look at it and it confuses the s**t out of me, because I'm like: what's the difference?" He goes on: "The world changed after 9/11. George Bush said, 'You're either with us or you're with the terrorists' – and there's the beginning of the split in our country."

George W Bush can't take all the credit for America's issues, however. We've been skirting around it, but there's a big, orange elephant in the room that we now have to look full in its saggy face: Donald Trump, Republican candidate for the presidency of the United States of America. The man who once said, "It doesn't matter what the media write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of ass." Does he have any shame?

"He has no compassion," Armstrong shoots back. "He has no empathy for anything except power. That's all he wants, and he'll step on anybody to get it. And the thought of a guy like that having his finger on the nuclear button is pretty f**king scary." Does Armstrong know any Trump voters? What is it that they find appealing about The Donald? "I've got family members from Oklahoma that are big Trump supporters. And there's no clear answer on why they're supporting him because he doesn't even have any policies. How can you have an opinion about who you want for the Leader of the Free World when the guy running doesn't have answers to any questions?" He does want to build a wall to stop the Mexicans getting in, I remind him. "Except for a f**king wall! That's never going to happen, give me a break.

"You know, dude, I just think it's been mass manipulation," he continues, with some degree of sadness. "Your grandparents have been hijacked by Fox News [who are] getting their information from the *National Enquirer* **(4)** [and] tabloids that are saying, 'Hillary Clinton adopted an alien baby'. I'm not kidding you. Like, an alien from outer space! They're grasping at straws to do anything to destroy her."

Armstrong was a vocal supporter of Bernie Sanders, the socialist candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, whose rise to prominence

Footnotes

(1) In July, WikiLeaks published 19,252 Democratic National Committee emails, including many sent by senior Democrats. Some suspect the Russian intelligence services of being behind the hack. Separately, Hillary Clinton is being investigated by the FBI for using her family email server to send government emails.

(2) In May 2014, a college student named Elliot Rodger went on a shooting spree around California, killing six and injuring 14 others. According to the Gun Violence Archive there is, on average, a mass shooting in the US on five out of every six days.

(3) The second amendment of the US Constitution grants the right to bear arms and suggests groups of armed civilians (or militias) are a good idea for national security. Some Americans (mostly Trump supporters) have organised militias to help prevent voter fraud. Others think that having people with guns outside polling stations is voter intimidation.

(4) The *National Enquirer* is a salacious American tabloid magazine that pays sources for tips on celebrity stories.

(5) The #BlackLivesMatter hashtag emerged after the fatal shooting of unarmed African-American teenager Trayvon Martin by neighbourhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in 2012. Black Lives Matter has since grown to become an international activist movement.

“Searching for justice is ingrained into Green Day”

(L-r:) Tré Cool, Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt

in the US coincided with Jeremy Corbyn’s in the UK. Now, with Sanders endorsing Clinton, Armstrong thinks she’s the “only choice” – though there are very few people from his background who would agree with him. Some polls have Trump leading by 76 per cent to 17 per cent over Clinton among white men without degrees.

“The biggest Trump supporters are uneducated white working-class people. And that’s the problem right there,” he argues. “There’s this white nationalism that’s been brewing under the radar for a long time. But now [Trump’s] been able to cause people to lash out and blame minorities and it’s really confusing. I mean, blatant misogyny going on at the same time.” Earlier this year, Armstrong suggested Trump was taking his cues from the Nazis. “That’s f**king Hitler, man,” he said of the property-mogul-turned-politician’s attitude towards immigrants. “The comparison is that he’s using scare tactics against minorities – Muslims and Mexicans and African-Americans. There could be race wars,” he adds, grimly.

In 2014 America had a taste of what might be to come. There were riots in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked by the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an African-American civilian, by Darren Wilson, a white police officer. The news channels broadcast war-like scenes, with the cops putting on a show of military force while parts of the city burned into the night. “When you watched on TV there was this military state,” remembers Armstrong. On the song ‘Somewhere Now’ he sings, “*I put the riot in patriot*”. So, does he think that rioting is ever the right way to go? “I think that’s a justifiable demonstration by all means,” he says, of Ferguson. “They’re throwing tear gas at people – what the f**k do you expect is going to happen?”

There’s another song on ‘Revolution Radio’, ‘Outlaws’, that recalls a very different time in Armstrong’s life: his wild youth spent smoking weed and getting into trouble. Now, at 44 years old, he’s an advocate for the #BlackLivesMatter campaign **(5)**. He’s the patron of a wildlife charity: Project Chimps. He’s got two children, whose future he worries about on a seemingly constant basis: “They’ve dealt with recession and war, non-stop war, neverending war… I think a lot of people are just like, ‘F**k, I can’t believe we’re still alive!’”

Armstrong had his own near-death experience in 2012. Or, as he prefers to call it, “a near-death experiment”. At a festival show in Las Vegas, he threw an epic tantrum when the band were told they had just one minute left to finish off their set. “I’ve been around since f**king nineteen f**king eighty-f**king-eight,” he raged. “I’m not f**king Justin Bieber, you motherf**kers!” Less than 48 hours later he’d checked into rehab to begin the process of recovery from years of alcohol and prescription drug abuse. “The pharmaceutical industry is just a bunch of drug dealers,” he tells me now.

It feels as if Armstrong’s most reckless days are behind him. Over the phone he sounds energised and open-minded. A man with a lot to live for. A man who wants to change the world in some positive way, through moments of unity at gigs like the one in New Jersey.

But it’s not an easy thing to do, inspiring people to stand up for what they believe in. Voter apathy’s a problem in the UK, especially among the young. But it’s just as serious an issue in the States, where turnout among voters under 30 has dropped to an almost unprecedented low **(6)**. When young people in America are just as disillusioned and disenfranchised as Armstrong was when he formed Green Day nearly three decades ago, how is it possible to connect with them on a political level?

He sighs: “I don’t know how to get people fired up, [but] searching for some kind of justice in the world is ingrained into Green Day… The only thing I would say to a young person is: look for the truth and find your own.”

NME

(6) Less than 20 per cent of Americans under 30 turned out to vote in the 2014 midterm elections.

RIDING IT 'TIL THE DOORS COME OFF

Two Door Cinema Club (l-r): Kevin Baird, Alex Trimble and Sam Halliday

It took their singer being hospitalised for Two Door Cinema Club to admit they needed a break. Hamish MacBain meets a band back from the brink

THE STORY OF TWO Door Cinema Club's three-years-in-the-making third album begins in July 2014, in a hospital bed: a bed occupied by their singer, Alex Trimble. Alex wasn't supposed to be there. He was supposed to be headlining Latitude. Instead, while Lily Allen replaced his band at the last minute and threw in a cover of 'Something Good Can Work' for the disappointed throng, Alex was being treated for stress-induced stomach ulcers.

"I was in there for two weeks," he says. "So that became the point where we *had* to stop."

Six years of non-stop touring – they wrote and recorded second album 'Beacon' in just a few weeks at the end of 2011 after three years, then dived straight back in – had taken their toll. And the physical deterioration was only part of what had gone wrong. "Communication had broken down through being in each other's company constantly for years," Alex continues. "It's hard to communicate when you just want to escape. The hard work, for all of the damage it does, is undoubtedly beneficial. But it also generates a fear that if you stop, then everything's going to go away. It's 'living the dream', but you fear that once you have it, you could easily lose it. So that's what stopped us giving ourselves time to breathe. It did have to come to an ugly end before we put our hands up."

"It was forcing our hand, in a way," lead guitarist Sam Halliday concedes. "We didn't have anything else outside of the band. It makes everything seem so much more important, because you're there in it all the time. Stuff that really wasn't that big of a deal became a massive deal."

Essentially, Two Door Cinema Club were sick of the sight of each other. Among the issues were the fact that Alex "wanted to be making music, whereas the other two enjoyed being out on the road more than I did – so I'd get frustrated when tours got extended and we couldn't get back in the studio." But, more broadly, as bass player Kevin Baird puts it, "We began to realise we were very different people: we'd started to feel like we couldn't express ourselves individually and that we were always 'that guy from that band'."

Cue a long, open-ended break. As well as a place he has in Portland, Oregon, Alex spent a few months at his parents' house "in the middle of nowhere" in Donegal, Ireland, doing "simple things: like learning to eat better, reading and just focusing on nothing but figuring s**t out". Sam stayed in London, having got married at the end of the last campaign, while Kevin and his fiancée went to LA: a city he didn't like at first but has now come to enjoy ("I don't really know anyone there," he laughs, "so I enjoyed spending a lot of time on my own, and… not doing a whole lot").

When the three of them *did* reconvene after about a year, it was by swapping music that they were listening to and, as Alex puts it, "trying to get into each other's heads". Again, there were differences. "I sent them some ELO and some Bee Gees," Alex says. "They were listening to dance music, electro, more club-based stuff. I'd delved back into the past, while they were more up to date. So we'd gone off in opposite directions. But they both fitted in perfectly with what we wanted to do going forward."

Certainly, the above pool of influences will not come as a surprise to anyone who's heard latest single 'Bad Decisions'. It sounds *exactly* like disco-era Bee Gees reimagined for the modern-day dancefloor (Alex: "We always all want to make danceable music") and is also indicative of their third album's aesthetic: a dense-sounding, propulsive electro-disco record, but with classic, soulful melodies over the top. It turns out, in light of the still-evidently-raw issues, that it took shape over Skype and email. "It was difficult at first," says Alex. "We hadn't resolved a lot of the differences, so there was a feeling still of a lack of communication.

"But then we reached a point that everyone had sent through ideas that everyone else was loving, and we realised we were genuinely excited by what each other was contributing. Then we realised that to make it sound like us, we needed to be in the room together." Lyrically, Alex had a lot of stuff to draw from. There are traces of the crises that he, Sam and Kevin went through ("*I'm a sinner / I'm the victim / I'm an alien when I'm myself*" opens 'Good Morning'), but not too much. He spent some time with producer Jacknife Lee drinking coffee and figuring out what he wanted to say. And what he wanted to say – or rather express – was a bafflement with, and fear of, what he on 'Bad Decisions' calls "generation information". The title track 'Gameshow', driven by a Joy Division-esque bassline, continues on a similar theme: Alex adapting the persona of a Instagram addict ("*I'll be the souvenir of this cheap champagne year / Spilling bubbles on designer clothes*"). And in truth, many of the lyrics feel like they have a more direct message to impart. "I knew I had stuff to write about this time," Alex agrees. "With the first two records, the lyrics served a different purpose: they were there to fill the gap over the top of the song, to fit in with the melody. I wanted to still do that this time, but I wanted to get a message in... get something out of myself, I guess."

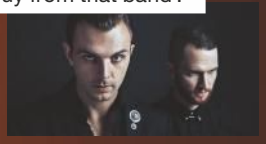
So Two Door Cinema Club return to the same lifestyle that nearly finished them off for good, but now with some very clear things to say, a fresh outlook on what they want their band to be, and what they want each other to be (in a word: communicative). They are, of course, a bona fide big band now: on a major label (they signed with Parlophone back in 2013 just prior to disappearing), with big tours made up of big shows – bigger than they've ever done before – now not just a possibility, but more than likely a necessity. Which might, for someone who literally put himself in hospital through what turned out to be over-commitment, be a little daunting. But there have been lessons learnt from that near-fatal almost-implosion, and what has resulted, even overlooking any interpersonal resolutions, is a band who've made an album that's a giant leap on from what they've done before.

"This is what we want to do, for as long as possible now," Alex says. In the darker days not too long ago he might not have meant that. But today, and for the foreseeable future, his words ring more than true. NME

PHOTOS: ELIOT LEE HAZEL

The class of 2010: reunited

What became of Two Door Cinema Club's rivals?



HURTS
Remain arena-huge in mainland Europe, but have struggled in their homeland.

THE DRUMS
Shed a few members after being hyped as the best band on the planet, and with them a lot of interest.

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING
Still infiltrate parts of radio that no other alternative band can get near.

YEASAYER
Released a fourth album, 'Amen & Goodbye', earlier this year; not the best sign of a healthy future.

The revolution will not be televised

Instead, it'll be at the Victoria & Albert Museum on November 5, thanks to a collaboration between the Levi's® Music Project and Skepta

These budding musicians have been under Skepta's wing

MODERN MUSIC IS ALL about giving something back. Breakout acts turn their spotlight onto their home crews, superstars mentor wannabes. Youth culture's flame is constantly fanned, the streets stay alight, music wins.

Cue Skepta's N17 musical masterclass, the first event in the Levi's® Music Project, a global music program set to inspire the next generation. In a groundbreaking partnership between denim and dynamo, the Mercury-winning MC created the Levi's® Music & Revolution space at his local Tottenham community centre where, for the past two months, 12 students have learnt about all aspects of music – from recording to lighting design and wearing sunglasses at night from Skepta and other music experts.

Aligned to the Victoria & Albert Museum's You Say You Want A Revolution? Records & Rebels 1966-1970 exhibition, the first iteration of this long-term project culminates in students performing the work they've produced, themed around the exhibition, during the Revolutions Weekender: A Festival Of Peace, Love And Music on November 5. There will be fireworks – and if you want to get involved yourself, you can look over the students' lyrics and notes in the Raphael gallery, and even remix their beats and vocals into your own tracks in a pop-up home studio.

"I want to show the young generation that success is not something you search for externally, it is from within," Skepta explains. As fiercely independent figures at the forefront of grime's movement, Skepta and his BBK crew represent a modern day revolution, reflecting the '60s counter-culture explosion celebrated by the exhibition.

But the project is also part of a far wider #SupportMusic initiative, in which the Levi's® Music Project will partner with major artists around the world to encourage music education and help inspire creativity and ambition in their local communities.

"By offering students the opportunity to create, the Levi's® Music Project gives young people a voice and a chance to express themselves in a positive and meaningful way," says Jennifer Sey, chief marketing officer for Levi's®.

Behind the images of every cool, denim-clad rebel, from Debbie Harry to The Stones, Levi's® has always been about giving back, building skate parks, supporting LGBTQ equality and encouraging environmentally conscious living. Now it's out to nurture the new wave of icons. Once more, music wins.

For more info on the Levi's® Music Project, head to levi.com/liveinlevis

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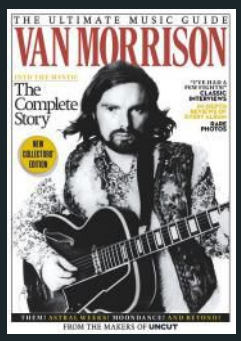
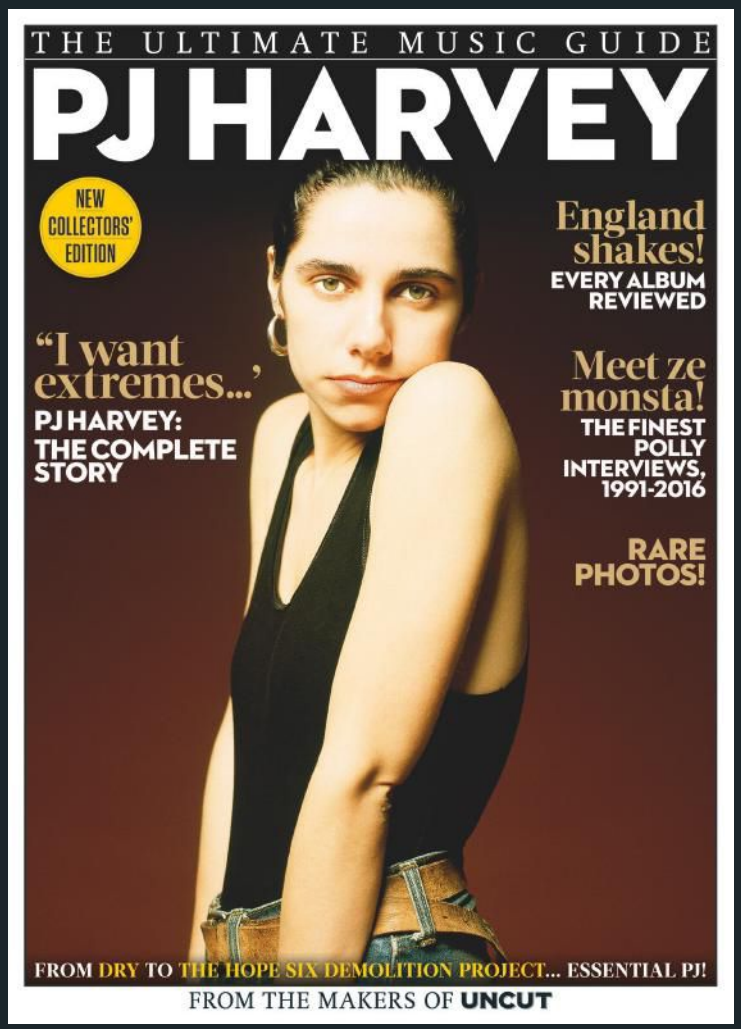
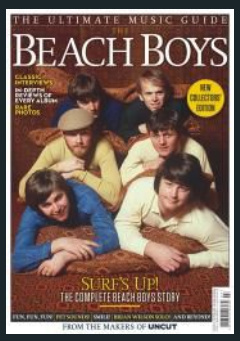
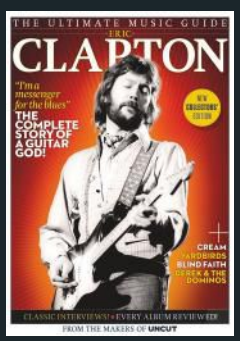
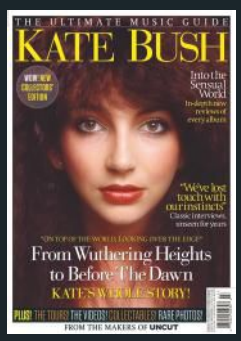








THE ULTIMATE MUSIC GUIDE
RADIOHEAD
"THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU MESS WITH US..."
The complete story of rock's most fearless band
FROM THE MAKERS OF UNCUT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KATE BUSH
"We've lost touch with our instincts"
From Wuthering Heights to Before The Dawn
KATE'S WHOLE STORY!
FROM THE MAKERS OF UNCUT

THE ULTIMATE MUSIC GUIDE
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RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

A$AP ROCKY

BEST FOR SHOWING OFF
A$AP ROCKY FEAT. PLAYBOI CARTI, TYLER, THE CREATOR & YUNG GLEESH
Telephone Calls
Rocky's back and on top form on this ace track from A$AP Mob's 'Cozy Tapes'. "*James Brown swag, Papa's got a brand new bag*," he boasts before claiming Harlem's "*back up on the map*".

BEST FOR POPPING THE QUESTION
PAUL McCARTNEY
In The Blink Of An Eye
Macca does emotional on this strings-led epic from the soundtrack to the new Raymond Briggs adaptation *Ethel & Ernest*, which promises to "*hold onto love*". Aww.

BEST FOR HAVING SOME FEELINGS
DAUGHN GIBSON
31, '16
Taken from a new EP, '31, '16' is about a boy confessing his love to his babysitter's ghost. It's fittingly surreal, with pan pipes and tweeting birds cutting through Gibson's deep croon.

BEST FOR KICKING OFF
DREAM WIFE FEAT. FEVER DREAM
FUU
*"I'm gonna f**k you up, gonna cut you up,"* sings Rakel Mjöll sweetly on the Icelandic-British grunge-pop trio's jagged new single. Turns out that sweetness is just an act as the track morphs into a chaotic scream.

BEST FOR POPPING YOUR COLLAR
MUSE
New Kind Of Kick
The trio's usual overblown space-rock is MIA on this one-off Halloween track, replaced by Matt Bellamy doing his best Iggy Pop impression over rumbling post-punk. Guess what? It suits them.

BEST FOR HAVING A MOSH
THE ORWELLS
They Put A Body In The Bayou
It's business as usual for the Chicago livewires on this track from upcoming album 'Terrible Human Beings'. Features disdain, fury and ramshackle garage-punk licks that'll make your heart race.

BEST FOR DRESSING UP
SHAME
Gold Hole
"*She feels so dirty, she knows that it's wrong / But she feels so good in Louis Vuitton*," purr the Brixton newcomers on this brooding track that captures the brink-of-collapse feel of their live shows.

BEST FOR FEELING FRAGILE
THE SHINS
Dead Alive
James Mercer's band announce their fifth album (due next year) with this shuffling cut. It's very Shins and very delicate, with Mercer sadly instructing "*so tonight, dance and cry*" in the chorus.

THE SHINS

BEST FOR PREPPING FOR THE APOCALYPSE
RUN THE JEWELS
Talk To Me
El-P and Killer Mike call this "the soundtrack to WWIII" – and it lives up to that billing, with dystopian unease by the truckload.

BEST FOR RUNNING WILD
CHARLI XCX FEAT. LIL YACHTY
After The Afterparty
UK pop's most exciting star returns with a supreme banger that'll make you want to get on the shots, run wild in the streets and return home with glitter in your underwear. Just like Charli would.

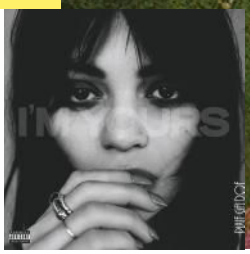
FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

PHOTOS: ROGER DECKKER, COLUMBIA RECORDS

Pixie Geldof pop star

The socialite turned musician's debut album is a dark and lovely affair

PIXIE GELDOF
I'm Yours
★★★☆☆
NOIR-POP | MOODY | COUNTRY



PIXIE GELDOF HAS spent the past decade in the limelight. The third daughter of Live Aid lynchpin Bob Geldof and television presenter Paula Yates, she's a tabloid regular and occasional model who's dabbled in music before, fronting the moody, Hole-worshiping group Violet a few years back. But now, at the age of 26, she's decided to branch out alone with her solo debut – and this time around she's even moodier.

Living out much of her life in the public eye probably goes some way to explaining the confidence that seeps through the 10 songs which make up 'I'm Yours', an album that's as deeply atmospheric as Lana Del Rey going for a midnight walk through a rundown cemetery to buy a packet of 20 Marlboro Reds from the haunted offie on the other side. Del Rey is evidently a huge influence on the sound of this record too – the breathy vocals, the emotional outpourings and general feeling of malaise are lessons learned from a noir-pop masterclass.

Even when Pixie's singing about the good times, like on the lusty 'Woman Go Wild' and the "*lipstick kisses*"-smothered 'Close To You', there's a lingering melancholy that suggests late night Whatsapp chats with Pixie are always pretty intense.

Yet even though the title track, 'I'm Yours' is feathery-soft and the cutesy 'Wild Things Grow' almost Disney-ish with its string-laden symphonics, this isn't an album that lacks balls. The storming 'Rain Comes Down' sounds as weighty as prime 90s Garbage, adding a slick industrial stomp to the classic country music riffing that underpins the whole album, regularly harking back to Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood's 1968 psychedelic-folk masterpiece 'Nancy & Lee'.

It's difficult not to mention Pixie Geldof's debut album in the same breath as Thomas Cohen's 'Bloom Forever', with both albums released two years down the line from the 2014 death of Peaches Geldof – Pixie's sister and Cohen's wife. But much like Cohen's album, this isn't an album that dwells on that tragedy. 'Twin Thing' is the only song that directly references her passing, but is perhaps one of the most beautiful, life-affirming tracks here. Here's to Pixie, the pop star – it suits her.

Leonie Cooper

FOR FANS OF

LANA DEL REY

MAZZY STAR

PHOTOS: KATE BELLM, REX FEATURES

Reinventing Robbie

He's a bit silly, but he's a damn good pop star

ROBBIE WILLIAMS
The Heavy Entertainment Show
★★★★☆
POP MAD HAND-JOB

ROBBIE WILLIAMS recently appeared on *The Graham Norton Show* to share an anecdote about the time he was w**ked off by a stranger in a rented castle. The woman, he told Norton, had wandered in off the street. "She could have been anywhere from 28 to 58. She went, 'Have you got morning glory?' I said, 'Yeah!' She said, 'I'll w**k you off!'"

Williams is a proper, old-fashioned pop star who knows it's part of his job to say and do ridiculous things. Look at 'Party Like A Russian', the lead single from 'The Heavy Entertainment Show', a demented march through a minefield of clichés about Rasputin and Russian dolls, with a chorus that samples Prokofiev's 'Dance Of The Knights' (*The Apprentice* theme) and boasts the exceptional line: "'*Ave it like an oligarch*." It's not even a great song – the chorus is a bit lumpen – but it's weird and mad and makes the world a little more colourful.

Some of the album is questionable. Take the unwieldy big band swing of the title track and the forgettable 'Love My Life', a vanilla ballad that sees Robbie lament his past mistakes. But there is gold here too. 'Motherf**ker' is a warm pop-rock banger addressed to his baby son: "*Your grandma is a fluffer / Your grandad's in the gutter / Your mother is a nutter… We are mad motherf**kers / You're a bad motherf**ker.*"

People say that Robbie, after years of ups and downs, finally mellowed when he married and found domestic bliss. Here, he recasts the Williams household as a successor to *The Osbournes*. 'Pretty Woman' is a thumping, country-tinged hoedown and 'Sensitive' is slinky electro-pop that uncoils with the same confidence as 'Kids', his classic 2000 collaboration with Kylie Minogue. That, and much of the rest of the album, confirms that Robbie's reconciliation with his estranged hitmaking songwriter Guy Chambers was one worth making, helping him recapture some of the verve of his early noughties imperial phase – albeit refocused through the lens of a man who spent a few wilderness years alien-hunting in Nevada. There's still no other British pop star quite as entertaining and unpredictable. May he be w**ked off in rented castles forevermore.

Jordan Bassett

FOR FANS OF

PHOTOS: KATE BELLM, REX FEATURES

Under their spell

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Two years after their debut, Honeyblood have upped their anger and returned a dazzlingly fearsome act

HONEYBLOOD
Ready For The Magic
★★★★☆
EMPOWERING ROCK ANGER

HONEYBLOOD HAVE NEVER suffered fools gladly. On 2014's self-titled debut, Glasgow duo Stina Tweeddale and Cat Myers laid into scumbag exes and cheating heartbreakers.

Follow-up 'Ready For The Magic' is just as angry and their sometimes gauzy alt-rock is beefed up to ferocious levels.

Where last time round rubbish men were in the firing line, this time it's haters. 'Babes Never Die', a v-flicking ode to not letting the bastards get you down, is as strong and resilient as early single 'Super Rat'. Instead of name-calling, though, it taunts its target by refusing to crumble. *"Thought I'd go up in flames instead of lights / Strike the match that set me alight / You can watch my fire burn bright / Cos babes never die,"* frontwoman Tweeddale snarls over a serrated guitar line. It's about toughness and empowerment – themes that form the backbone of the record.

'Sea Hearts' flips the usual narrative of the woman being the one left heartbroken on its head. *"We'll break hearts that get in the way,"* she promises before giddily indulging in chants of *"Hey hey! It's just a little heartbreak!"* with drummer Cat Myers. The Le Tigre-gone-rock title track has Tweeddale igniting a relationship on her own terms, rather than moping about waiting to be picked, while the shadowy 'Gangs' offers a different kind of empowerment. *"Don't let your fears keep you here / They'll turn into quicksand,"* Tweeddale advises with the kind of subtle urgency in her voice that makes you question whether you could be doing better.

Unlike their debut album, not all of the songs on 'Ready For The Magic' are about the band's leader. The aforementioned 'Sea Hearts' is about a friend of Tweeddale's, and elsewhere she dabbles in character studies. All of them are people you could do without – 'Sister Wolf''s protagonist is painted as a sly creature, 'Hey Stellar' focuses on a betraying *"bitch"* and 'Justine, Misery Queen' is – as the song's title says – a complete sourpuss. If only she had Honeyblood's tempestuous second album to help her vent her frustrations.

Rhian Daly

FOR FANS OF

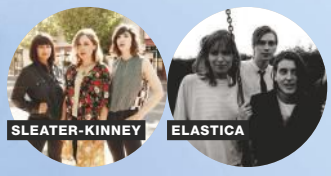


PHOTO: BRIGITTE SIRE

Honeyblood (l-r): Cat Myers and Stina Tweeddale

BOOKS

Mr Smith

Johnny Marr was, alongside Morrissey, the driving force in the most influential British band of the ’80s – The Smiths. Now he’s written a book about it...

Have you always had a burning desire to write this book?
“I thought I’d get round to it eventually. I gave myself a few years to think about it, and it took me nine months to write. I like the way I got to do it when I’m still so busy. People are often writing autobiographies looking back on a career, but I’ve thankfully still got a lot going on.”

You don’t seem to have any scores to settle?
"I had no interest in rewriting history to do that, and there’s nothing as bad or boring as a rock star laying down their neuroses on everyone. That’s just not really my style.”

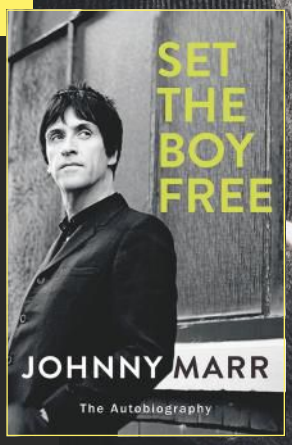
How did you approach writing about the Smiths era?
“What else to say than that it was amazing? Because it was. How could anyone imagine otherwise? We were young, we were in a great band and lots of amazing things were happening to us. That’s the truth. That’s been misrepresented by people with different agendas, and I wanted to straighten that out.”

So you’ve read Morrissey’s book then?
“No, I haven’t. Mainly because I don’t want to answer that question. People think I’m bulls**tting, but I really haven’t. I’ll get round to it one day probably, but initially I didn’t to avoid everyone asking what I thought, and later it was because I didn’t want to react to anything while writing my book.”

How much research did you have to do?
“Lots of fact-checking. There’s always some clever d**k going ‘Actually, I think you’ll find…’ Angie [Johnny’s wife] kept a diary throughout all The Smiths days, which were very useful. Funnily enough, no f**ker thought to ask about them when they were writing their so-called Smiths books.”

It seems like life turned out exactly as you wanted it to...
“It has, but like anyone, I’ve had to fight for it. S**t gets in the way. I never banked on a court case. I never banked on the reality of a car crash. Having all those things on my to-do list as a teenager was one thing, but actually experiencing drug psychosis, the pressure of making a few really big records, and then the break-up of a band is a different matter when you have to go through it. And those songs and albums didn’t just make themselves. Things did turn out as I wanted, but it wasn’t always easy and it’s been a lot of work. Luckily I like work.”

JOHNNY MARR
Set The Boy Free
★★★★☆
EIGHTIES LEGEND



WHEN JOHNNY MARR'S ex-songwriting partner, Morrissey, released the book *Autobiography* in 2013, it was a desperately bitter account of his career, written with a considerable amount of poetic licence. Marr has risen above any temptations to do the same, and gone for a decidedly factual take. Insightful and interesting, *Set The Boy Free* is a well-written account of a thrilling life well lived. Anyone looking for a warts-and-all take on The Smiths’ decline will be disappointed, aside from a warm account of Marr and Morrissey reuniting in a pub in 2008. There’s the odd downbeat moment, but on the whole, Marr marches onwards, upbeat and with his mystique and dignity intact.

Johnny Marr in The Smiths, London, 1985

WORDS: ANDY WELCH. PHOTOS: ©PAUL RIDER

FILM

She's electric

Alicia Vikander has, in just a couple of years, become reason enough to see a film. She's the best thing about this so-so period drama

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

12A ***Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Rachel Weisz, Bryan Brown***

★★★☆☆

PERIOD DRAMA | FANCY DRESS | SAD

WHEN ANYONE IN A FILM moves to an island lashed by storms and crashing waves, you know things aren't going to go well. The possibilities for pathetic fallacy are just too great for any storyteller to resist. So it proves for the central couple in Derek Cianfrance's yearning period drama.

After fighting in World War I, Thomas Sherbourne (Michael Fassbender) is looking for a significantly quieter life. He heads to a quiet part of Western Australia and takes a job running a lighthouse on the island of Janus Rock (there's symbolism afoot here). He's prepared to spend his life there alone, but he catches the eye of young local woman Isabel (Alicia Vikander), who sees something interesting within him. Soon enough they're married and trying unsuccessfully for a baby. When a child washes up on the beach in a boat, Isabel thinks their prayers have been answered. Thomas is not so sure.

Oddly, it's in the earlier scenes, before the child shows up and everything goes to hell, that the film is more powerful. There's potent chemistry between Fassbender and Vikander and their courtship scenes are affecting and sort of sexy in a very buttoned-up kind of way. Vikander, particularly, is stellar. She's quietly become an extremely impressive screen presence, underplaying her way to an Oscar in 2015's *The Danish Girl*. Here, she again keeps the volume on her performance low, even when it gives every chance to really crank it up to full snot and wailing. She's become, in just a couple of years, reason enough to see a film.

Having allowed himself to luxuriate in the lesser-plotted first half of his film, Cianfrance seems in a rush to get to the end once his story really kicks in. Twists and turns shoot out with such rapid frequency that there's little time to stop and *feel* the effects, rather than just watch them. The result is that despite everything being objectively very sad, in the telling it's peculiarly sterile.

Olly Richards

(L-r:) Alicia Vikander and real-life boyfriend Michael Fassbender

FOR FANS OF

Out for revenge

Fashion designer turned director Tom Ford's second film is a gripping and remarkably accomplished piece of storytelling

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS
15 *Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Shannon*
★★★★☆
THRILLER COMPLEX GRIPPING

REVERED FASHION designer Tom Ford made an impressive directing debut with 2009's *A Single Man*, an elegant portrait of a lonely gay university professor living in '60s California. His second film as writer-director, adapted from Austin Wright's 1993 novel *Tony And Susan*, is an equally stylish but far more complex thriller that soon becomes a haunting story-within-a-story.

We meet LA art gallery owner Susan Morrow (Amy Adams) as she receives a pre-release copy of *Nocturnal Animals*, a novel written by her ex-husband Edward Sheffield (Jake Gyllenhaal). With her current husband distracted and away on business, Susan becomes engrossed in the novel, which Edward has unexpectedly dedicated to her. As she reads, we see her visualisation of its violent, revenge-driven story involving Tony Hastings (Gyllenhaal – because Susan sees her ex-husband in the novel's hero) and a maverick Texan cop (Michael Shannon) helping him secure justice for his family.

Although the novel's gritty Texan setting bears no relation to Susan's luxe LA life, she begins to realise that Edward hasn't dedicated *Nocturnal Animals* to her out of simple nostalgic affection. As we see the novel's brutal story unfold, and Susan's harrowed reactions to it, Ford also offers us flashback scenes showing key moments in Susan and Edward's doomed romance. A brilliantly clipped encounter between Susan and her overbearing mother (*Love Actually*'s Laura Linney) later proves to be very revealing indeed.

Nocturnal Animals could easily have become a confusing jumble of competing narratives, but Ford's controlled touch keeps it streamlined: we're invested throughout in both Tony's quest for revenge and Susan's visceral response to it. Gyllenhaal is convincing as both boyishly optimistic Edward and battle-hardened Tony, but the film is anchored by a sensitive and compelling performance from Adams, whose natural warmth makes Susan sympathetic even when we learn she has behaved cruelly.

Aside from the odd jarring moment, including a provocative opening sequence that belongs in a different film, *Nocturnal Animals* is a gripping and remarkably accomplished piece of storytelling. Ford's day job obviously keeps him busy, but on this evidence he should definitely direct more often. **Nick Levine**

FOR FANS OF

Amy Adams as LA art gallery owner Susan Morrow

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

Rag'n' Bone Man

Blues dude who's worked with Vince Staples

BEFORE RORY GRAHAM found his calling as a gravel-voiced blues singer, he made his name as an MC at jungle and drum 'n' bass raves and on pirate radio. His love of hip-hop bleeds into the music he makes now, and his 2014 EP 'Wolves' featured Californian rap hero Vince Staples and south London poet-cum-MC Kate Tempest. The Brighton man is eyeing up even bigger things with his debut album, due in 2017.

Were you a good MC?
"I've listened to tapes and some of it's pretty awful. You don't have much to say at 17, so it was just rhyming random words. A lot of kids I grew up with were really into jungle and we did our own crappy little pirate radio station things. That's how I got into it."

How did you get into blues?
"My dad's got a really big blues collection, but I didn't have any musical training. I basically learnt to sing from listening to BB King and Muddy Waters. Then I'd play open-mic nights with people in their fifties and sixties. I think I gained a lot of respect for it."

Open-mic nights are a big thing for you. What's the attraction?
"I don't feel any pressure. It's a judgement-free place. A couple of times this year, while recording my album, I'd write a song in the daytime and just go and play it in the evening. Most people in the crowd aren't there for perfection."

Some of your lyrics are autobiographical and some, like 'No Mother', are about friends. Why is that?
"Sometimes you can be more honest when you're writing about someone else. A couple of times people thought a song was about them and I've had to be like, 'Sorry, it's not about you.'"

You've been grafting away as Rag'n'Bone Man for over five years, and for parts of it also working as a carer. Do you feel it's finally paying off?
"I definitely have earned it. Even way before I had a label, I gained my own fan base and built myself from the ground up. So I do feel like I deserve it."

You've collaborated with some big names already. Any guests on the new album?
"At the moment the album is all me and I kind of like it that way. I'm rapping on a couple of tracks, so I guess it's 'Rag'n'Bone Man featuring Rag'n'Bone Man'. You could say I'm featuring on my own album."
Thomas Smith

PHOTOS: ©DANNY NORTH

Best track

LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!

'HUMAN'
A slow-building blend of classic blues and hearty soul in which Rory's voice explodes to its stunning limits.

D'ANGELO
Black Messiah (2014)
A gritty and heart-rending mix of electro-soul, hip-hop and blues – all while packing a political and emotional punch. One of Rory's icons.

FOR FANS OF FAMOUS FAN

"Rory has one of the most insane voices I've ever heard and also happens to be an awesome guy. We're all massive fans of the music he's making."
Dan Smith, Bastille

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THE MOST IMPORTANT GIGS THIS WEEK

Living for The Weeknd

Canadian loverman Abél Tesfaye last toured the UK as Drake's support in 2014. This time he'll have 100,000 of his own fans to entertain

THE WEEKND'S BEEN BUSY MAKING himself mega-famous since he last toured the UK as a relative newcomer. He had a few standalone 2015 dates, but hasn't properly hit UK venues since 2014. At that point he'd released three mixtapes and a slightly underperforming debut studio album, 'Kiss Land', and was supporting fellow Torontoan Drake. Since then he's started working with Swedish pop don Max Martin (Taylor Swift, Katy Perry), had the best song on the *Fifty Shades Of Grey* soundtrack ('Earned It'), and released a UK Number One album, 'Beauty Behind The Madness', that bagged two GRAMMY Awards. The 26-year-old is now a legit global superstar thanks to hit singles like 'Can't Feel My Face' and 'The Hills', and his ever-rising status is evidenced by the company he's been keeping lately. Just this year he sang alongside Kanye West ('FML') and Beyoncé ('6 Inch') and he's now working with Daft Punk on his upcoming album 'Starboy'. All of that suggests Tesfaye's become a pretty peerless R&B performer, so his upcoming March tour is something to get properly excited about. Starboy indeed.

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

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THE WEEKND
The Torontoan R&B star working with Daft Punk

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ON SALE NOW

DEFTONES

Veteran metal band from Sacramento, California

MAY 2017
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Sat 6 O2 Apollo, Manchester
Sun 7 SECC, Glasgow

TELL ME MORE: With eight albums in 20 years, Deftones continue to do big, booming tours – but frontman Chino Moreno recently told *NME*: "I certainly wouldn't want to carry on forever." Fans had better get in there quick.
TICKETS: £34-£36.50

CHIC FEAT. NILE RODGERS

Daft Punk collaborators and utter disco legends

DECEMBER
Fri 23 Eventim Apollo, London

TELL ME MORE: The group are playing this Christmas Eve-eve gig to raise money for Autism Rocks in their first UK appearance since headlining FOLD this summer. Bring your disco shoes.
TICKETS: £42

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NME PROMOTION

MUSIC & REVOLUTION, MADE POSSIBLE BY LEVI'S® & SKEPTA

As part of the Levi's® Music Project, 12 young people have been working alongside Skepta, building up to give an awesome performance at the V&A.

NOVEMBER
Sat 5 Part of The Revolutions Weekender: A festival of Peace, Love & Music at the V&A, London.

TELL ME MORE: Skepta and his team have been tutoring 12 young musicians in his hometown of Tottenham – and on Saturday November 5, they'll be at the museum to give a performance based on the themes of the V&A exhibition 'You Say You Want a Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970'. If you're looking for new talent, you'll find it right here.
TICKETS: Go to NME.com/win for a chance to win tickets.

ELLIE GOULDING

British pop star, royal favourite and campaigner

NOVEMBER
Mon 21 Royal Albert Hall, London

TELL ME MORE: This one-off gig from the 'Love Me Like You Do' singer will raise money for Streets of London, a charity that helps fight homelessness in the capital. "We have a responsibility to help create a more compassionate world for people whose lives have taken a bad turn," she says.
TICKETS: £20.50-£84.25

TOVE LO

Swedish pop star who's called her assertive new album 'Lady Wood'

MARCH 2017
Wed 15 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Fri 17 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

TELL ME MORE: Tove Lo started out as a songwriter with Swedish hitmaker Max Martin and has since launched a highly decent solo pop career. She's got loads of great singles: 'Habits (Stay High)', 'True Disaster' and 'Cool Girl' among them.
TICKETS: £18.50-£20

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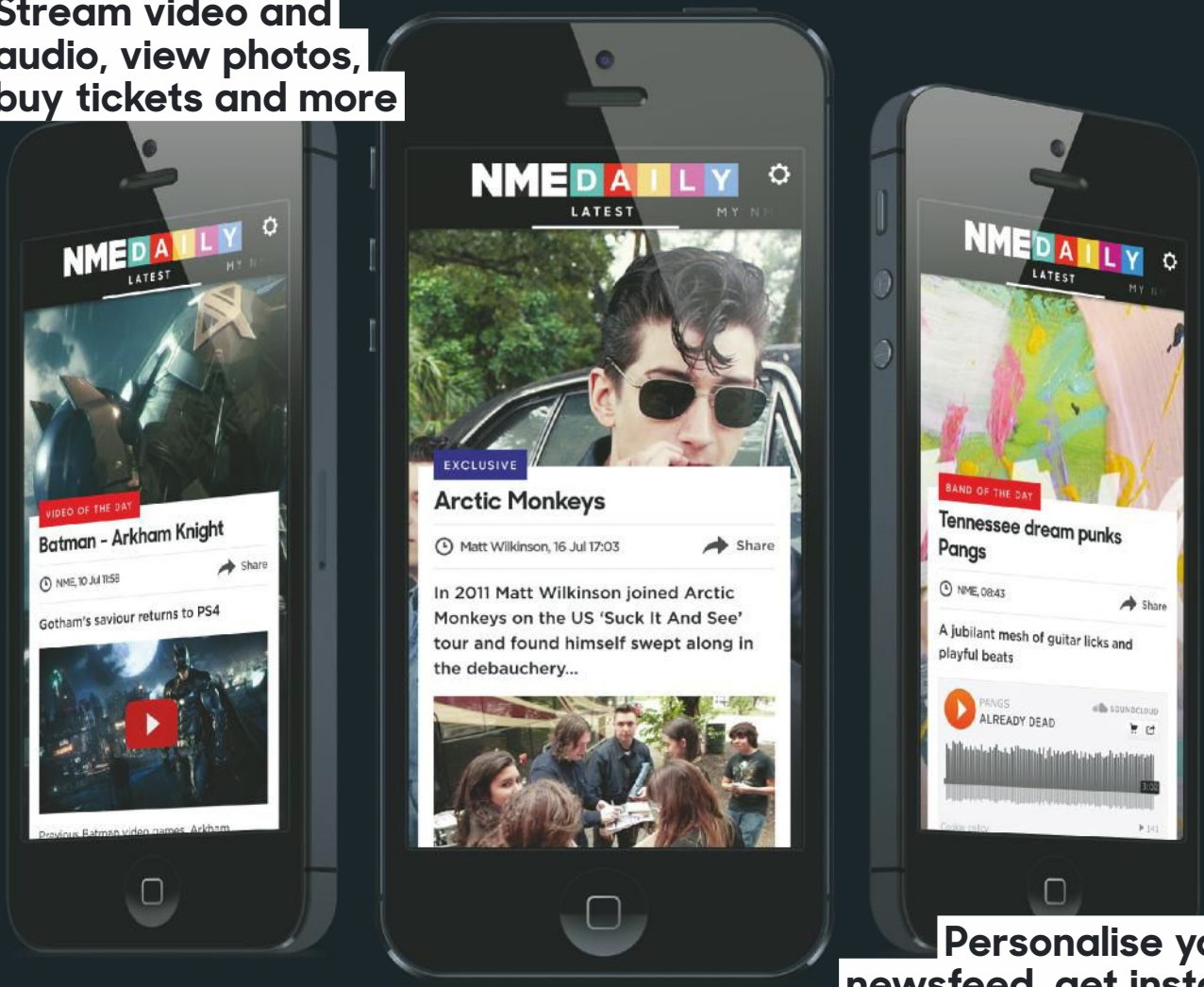

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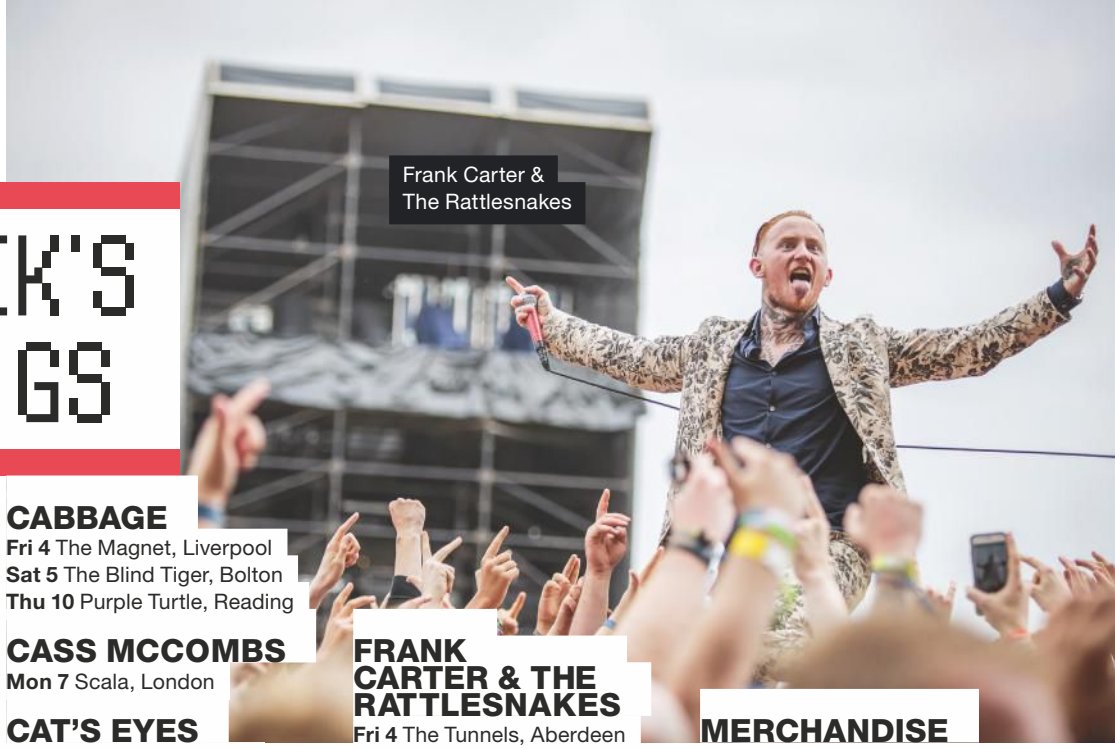
THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS



Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes

ALLUSONDRUGS
Sat 5 The Cellar Bar, Stafford
Thu 10 The Tap & Barrel, Pontefract

ANAÏS MITCHELL
Wed 9 The Glee Club, Nottingham
Thu 10 St John The Evangelist Church, Oxford

ARDYN
Thu 10 Nice N Sleazy, Glasgow

BASTILLE
Fri 4 First Direct Arena, Leeds
Sat 5 Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham
Sun 6 Arena, Manchester
Tue 8 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
Wed 9 SSE Arena, Belfast

BEACH SLANG
Mon 7 Mono, Glasgow
Tue 8 Scala, London
Wed 9 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Thu 10 The Haunt, Brighton

BONDAX
Tue 8 Lakota, Bristol

BONOBO
Fri 4 Studio Spaces, London

BRING ME THE HORIZON
Fri 4 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
Sat 5 The O2, London
Sun 6 Arena, Sheffield
Tue 8 Arena, Manchester
Wed 9 SSE Hydro, Glasgow

CABBAGE
Fri 4 The Magnet, Liverpool
Sat 5 The Blind Tiger, Bolton
Thu 10 Purple Turtle, Reading

CASS MCCOMBS
Mon 7 Scala, London

CAT'S EYES
Fri 4 Cathedral, Coventry
Sun 6 The Old Market, Hove

CORINNE BAILEY RAE
Fri 4 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sat 5 Albert Hall, Manchester
Mon 7 Corn Exchange, Cambridge
Tue 8 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

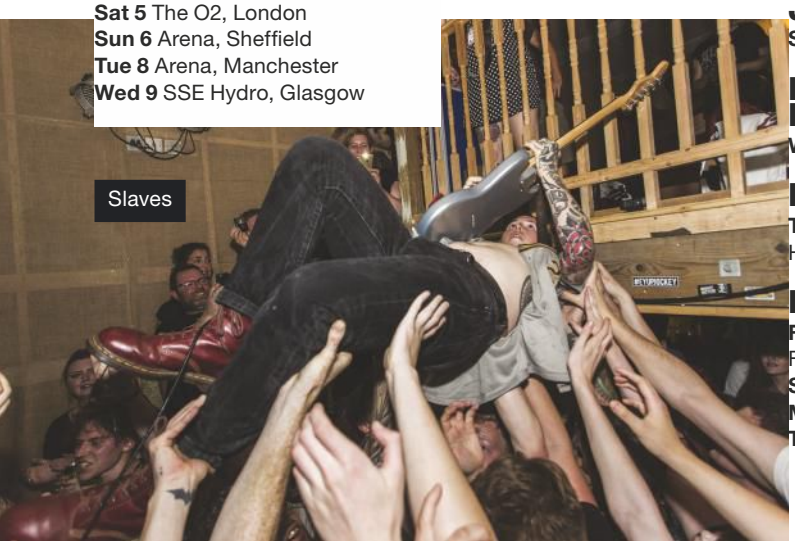
COURTEENERS
Thu 10 Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CRYSTAL CASTLES
Mon 7 The Garage, Glasgow
Tue 8 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Wed 9 Riverside, Newcastle
Thu 10 The Leadmill, Sheffield

DANNY BROWN
Thu 10 Electric Brixton, London

FIFI RONG
Fri 4 Century Club, London

FRANCIS & THE LIGHTS
Thu 10 The Jazz Café, London



Slaves

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Fri 4 The Tunnels, Aberdeen
Sun 6 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Mon 7 The Key Club, Leeds
Tue 8 The Fleece, Bristol
Thu 10 Electric Ballroom, London

HAPPY MEALS
Tue 8 Aatma, Manchester

HOOTON TENNIS CLUB
Mon 7 Thekla, Bristol
Tue 8 The Boileroom, Guildford
Wed 9 The Craufurd Arms, Milton Keynes
Thu 10 Bleach, Brighton

JACK GARRATT
Sat 5 O2 Academy, Glasgow
Tue 8 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Wed 9 O2 Academy, Leeds

JAMES BLAKE
Sat 5 O2 Academy Brixton, London

JAWS
Fri 4 Banquet Records, Kingston upon Thames

JULIA BIEL
Sun 6 Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne

KERO KERO BONITO
Wed 9 Scala, London

KEVIN MORBY
Tue 8 Islington Assembly Hall, London

LOCAL NATIVES
Fri 4 Motion & The Marble Factory, Bristol
Sun 6 QMU, Glasgow
Mon 7 University Union, Leeds
Tue 8 Academy, Manchester

MERCHANDISE
Fri 4 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

NAO
Fri 4 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

NETSKY
Fri 4 Engine Rooms, Southampton
Sat 5 O2 Forum, London

PEACHES
Fri 4 SWG3, Glasgow
Sat 5 Concorde 2, Brighton
Tue 8 & Wed 9 Oval Space, London
Thu 10 Academy, Manchester

SLAVES
Thu 10 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea

SPIRITUALIZED
Mon 7 & Tue 8 Barbican Centre, London

TRAAMS
Wed 9 Queen of Hoxton, London
Thu 10 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE VRYLL SOCIETY
Fri 4 O2 Academy, Oxford
Sat 5 The Joiners, Southampton

WHITNEY
Fri 4 Bodega, Nottingham
Sat 5 The Art School, Glasgow
Sun 6 The Cluny, Newcastle
Tue 8 Gorilla, Manchester
Wed 9 Thekla, Bristol
Thu 10 KOKO, London

WRETCH 32
Wed 9 O2 Forum, London
Thu 10 O2 Ritz, Manchester

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES,GETTY IMAGES

#TransformTrauma

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BEACH BABY RUKHSANA MERRISE

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Playing The Album in full plus a Best Of Set

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Sat 12th WAKEFIELD WAREHOUSE 23
Fri 18th SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY2
Sat 19th LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2
Fri 25th OXFORD O2 ACADEMY2
Sat 26th LEICESTER THE SCHOLAR @ O2 ACADEMY

December 2016
Fri 2nd NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2
Sat 3rd GLASGOW O2 ABC2
Fri 9th LONDON O2 ACADEMY2 ISLINGTON
Sat 10th MANCHESTER CLUB ACADEMY

"Rockin" Dorn Knaus (Pearl Jam)

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SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER
LEICESTER O2 ACADEMY

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NATIONAL TOUR 2017

FRI MAY 05 LONDON O2 ACADEMY2 ISLINGTON
SAT MAY 06 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2
FRI MAY 19 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY3
SAT MAY 20 GLASGOW O2 ABC2
FRI JUNE 02 SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY2
SAT JUNE 03 NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2

LEE RANALDO & EL RAYO (SONIC YOUTH)

PLUS SPECIAL GUEST
RICHARD YOUNGS

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2016
OSLO, HACKNEY

academyevents presents

PETE WYLIE & THE MIGHTY WAH!

plus special guests

NOVEMBER 2016
12 LEICESTER THE SCHOLAR @ O2 ACADEMY
13 GLASGOW O2 ABC2
16 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY
19 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY3
20 SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY2
26 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY

NEW ALBUM 'PETE SOUNDS' DUE OCTOBER

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FUTURE OF THE LEFT
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FRI 25 NOV LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2
SAT 03 DEC LONDON O2 ACADEMY ISLINGTON
FRI 09 DEC BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY3

academyevents presents

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THE UK's No.1 TRIBUTE TO THE ARCTIC MONKEYS
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

AUTUMN 2016

NOVEMBER
SAT 12 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2
FRI 18 LEICESTER THE SCHOLAR @ O2 ACADEMY
SAT 19 SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY2
FRI 25 LONDON O2 ACADEMY2 ISLINGTON
SAT 26 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY2

DECEMBER
FRI 09 GLASGOW O2 ABC2

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BIFFY CLYRO

THE ELLIPSIS TOUR

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

BRAND NEW

NOVEMBER 2016

TUE	29	GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
WED	30	ABERDEEN GE OIL & GAS ARENA

DECEMBER 2016

FRI	02	NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA
SAT	03	MANCHESTER ARENA
SUN	04	LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA
SOLD OUT		CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA
WED	07	BIRMINGHAM BARCLAYCARD ARENA
THU	08	LONDON THE O2

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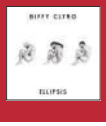

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AVAILABLE NOW

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3 tone RECORDS

Quite simply a new indie label, perhaps with a different focus than most. Having spent the past 20 years focusing on live music, 3tone records offer a different approach to releasing music, than many of its competitors. 3tone records is not here to announce a new way, but rather a new twist on the old way of doing things, to nurture, encourage and support artists in every aspect of their career. Whilst a great chart position is helpful, its not the sole focus here at 3tone records. Live touring has and always will be another important focus of our business. With a strong worldwide network, to fully service 3tone records' ethos.

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Soundtrack of my life

Melanie C

Scouse. Sporty. Spicy

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

THE BEATLES

Eleanor Rigby

"Mum had a really, really good vinyl collection and the crazy woman let me just rifle through it and scratch it to bits. When I heard 'Eleanor Rigby' it was the first time I listened to a song and it just kind of made my imagination run wild. The lyric is so sad and I used to think, 'Who is she?'"

THE FIRST CONCERT I WENT TO

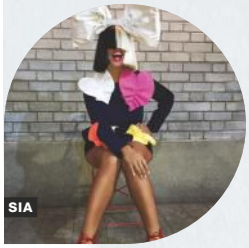
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS

"This is such a random one. We were on holiday in Canada and Frankie Valli was playing in a theme park, so we ended up going. I was maybe 10 and wasn't aware of him before that."

THE BAND I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

ABBA

"Weirdly, I have an aversion to ABBA. I shouldn't even admit it. If I'm at a wedding and an ABBA song comes on, I have to leave. I don't know why. Maybe there's something that happened that I've blocked out."



SIA

THE SONG I WISH I'D WRITTEN

SIA

Breathe Me

"I recently was on Jools Holland's Radio 2 show and I did this with him and a few other guys from his band. It's so beautiful lyrically. It's about being broken and small. She's a great lyricist. Most of her songs I wish I'd written."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

THE SPICE GIRLS

Spice Up Your Life

"The song that springs to mind that always fills me with sadness, if I really want to pull on the heartstrings, is 'Who Wants To Live Forever' by Queen. But I think I'll go for 'Spice Up Your Life' so everyone can have a little jiggle."

THE SPICE GIRLS

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF JOINING SPICE GIRLS

THE POINTER SISTERS

I'm So Excited

"It's what I sang in my audition. I was trying out for West End shows and got this flyer for a girl band. It was just another audition. But I rocked up and said to my friend, 'That's it, that's what I'm going to do' – and I did."

THE POINTER SISTERS

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

NENEH CHERRY

Buffalo Stance

"I've always fancied myself as more of an urban artist. I totally cannot do it, but you know, in the safety of the drunken haze..."

Melanie C's new solo album 'Version Of Me' is out now

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

LAST WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

ALEX TURNER

Arctic Monkeys

November 2, 2011

"When you're in the van, all you think is, 'I'm on tour in a rock'n'roll band.'"

INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, TONYA BRE, MARLENE MARINO